

Magnolia Presbyterian Church The UpLook

December 2022

Advent Devotional Booklets--pick up your copy and enjoy preparing for the season Redlands Adventist Academy is coming to lead us in Lessons & Carols on Dec 11 Christmas Food Boxes--your donations on Dec 11 will help hungry neighbors Christmas Eve Service--join us for candlelight, communion, & a short children's play

Pastor's Ponderings

hat's your favorite symbol of Christmas? Is it the tree (which points up to heaven and whose leaves remain green all year, a symbol of God's gift of eternal life)? Or is it the star (which brings light and leads the way)? Is it Christmas lights (which represents Jesus who is the Light of the World)? Maybe it is the candy cane (in the shape of a J to represent Jesus and the stripes which represent Jesus' blood which makes us clean)?



For a long time, my favorite symbol was the gift (representing Jesus as God's gift to the world but also the gifts the Magi brought). Partly it is because I was born on Christmas (yes, December 25, ____ years ago) and the idea that everyone gets a gift on my birthday warms my heart.

For the last few years, the symbol that wrapped my attention was the partially burnt manger that somehow survived the fire that irreparably damaged our sanctuary. The symbolism of this item surviving and still in use as a decoration is heartwarming and encouraging, even if it is unlikely

that Jesus was placed in a wooden feeding trough (see https://content.wtsbooks.com/shopify/pdf links/

9780830825684.pdf and read the first chapter of Ken Bailey's book where he describes what the first Christmas was most likely to have been).

But this year, the symbol I am most looking forward to

seeing is the empty advent calendar. Each year, my children dutifully experience each of the final 24 days of advent by opening a new door revealing a gift/ treat, as they wait and anticipate Christmas.

On Christmas Eve, when we celebrate as a faith community that Jesus was born,

Continued on page 2 -->



Sunday, Dec 11th

Bring your Christmas Food Box donations to Church on Dec 11th so we can

distribute them to neighbors in need the following week! (More info & shopping list on pg 5)

In this Issue:

Pastor's Ponderings	page 1
Deacon's Corner & Stewardship	page 2
Rooted Life Groups	page 2
Session Highlights	page 3
Abundant Thanks!	page 3
Advent Season Calendar	page 4
Christmas Food Boxes	page 5
Lessons & Carols	page 5
Children's Sunday School	page 6
Christmas Skit Rehearsals	page 6
Scouts' Corner	page 6
Where You Can Help	page 7
Family Promise	page 7
Regular Meetings	page 8
Standing Announcements	page 8
Coffee Hour & Online Directory	page 9
Birthdays & Anniversaries	page 9
Events Calendar	page 10
Prayer Calendar	nage 11



it is immediately preceded by the empty advent box. Not only is it an

accomplishment for my children to have completed the calendar, but it is permission for me to celebrate.

As we wait, prepare for, and anticipate Christ's eventual and coming, we also celebrate wait, prepare for, and celebrate Christ's first coming, which changed our world forever.

In my home, we secure Lego advent calendars. What kind of advent calendar might you use this year?

Your waiting, preparing, and anticipating Co-Pastor,



Rooted Life Groups for 2023

Join Rooted Life Groups beginning on January 22 to experience this truth: you matter! Consider joining us in this 10-week life-changing experience and connect with God, the church community, and your purpose. Followers of Jesus, old & new, are welcome to join in and



begin your Life Group journey. Questions, info, sign-ups at magpres.com/rooted



DEACONS'

Christmas Gratitude and Joy

The last few years have truly tested our spirits and faith. Maybe we have lost loved ones, dealt with illness, had financial woes or just felt depressed because our lives and schedules have been interrupted.

Pastor Paul recently preached on gratitude, and he's right! We need to focus on the positives and be grateful for all the blessings we do have! It has been a time, giving us a chance to get in touch with our true selves. Our true selves are grounded in love and a life of gratitude.

It reminds me of when I was an ombudsman for long-term care. An older black lady who I would visit would always say, "I'm blessed!" when I would ask her how she was doing. Here was a woman who was frail and most likely had experienced discrimination in her life feeling grateful. She was truly an inspiration!

Perhaps to feel the true joy of Christmas this year, we need to count our blessings and reach out to someone less fortunate.

May your Christmas be filled with gratitude, joy, peace and love!

Flora Livingstone , Deacon

A Moment for Stewardship

Many thanks to you who have given faithfully to the mission and work of God's church this year!

Thank you also to those who have turned in your 2023 Pledge cards. If you haven't done so already, it's not too late!

Reminder: End of year giving needs to be postmarked or in the office by Dec, 31st for your 2022 tax purposes.

Our church has been generously blessed during this year's Stewardship Drive. We are grateful for the commitments from our members and friends that will uphold this congregation to do great things in the name of Jesus in the coming year.

Our offering envelopes for 2023 have arrived! You can get them in any one of the following ways:

- Pick them up on Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.
- Pick them up during the week in the office.
- Contact the office to have them mailed to you.

This year, the envelopes are not numbered, as they have been in the past. Please be sure to write your name on them, to help with the accounting. Thank you for your continuing support of our church and for your giving hearts.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session Committee highlights continue... this month, we look at Stewardship and Finance

Who's Who on the Stewardship and Finance Committee? Chaired by Elder Dick Kirby, with Elder Jaeson Robinson, Elder Jay Nicholson, Jan McKee, Jeff Ludwig, Chris Nettles, Pastor Claire Schlegel, and Pastor Paul Knopf

Purpose: To enable the church to fulfill its mission and encourage generosity **Roles and Responsibilities** (as stated in the Standing Rules of Session):

- 1. Provide information to the Session regarding the careful & responsible management of resources entrusted to them
- 2. Develop and implement a Stewardship strategy for the Congregation
- Prepare, develop, and manage the annual budget, to be reviewed and adopted by the Session
- 4. Oversee the collection and banking of weekly, online, and special offerings.
- 5. Collect and collate pledges from the congregation for use in preparing the Annual Operating Budget
 - Pledge information will remain confidential and may be accessed by Elders on the Stewardship and Finance Committee, Office Manager, Financial Secretaries, Treasurer, and others approved by the Session.
- 6. Track pledge and unpledged giving, explore developing patterns, encouraging the congregation to practice faithful stewardship
 - Giving information will remain confidential and may be accessed by Elders on the Stewardship and Finance Committee, Office Manager, Financial Secretaries, Treasurer, and others approved by the Session.
- 7. Collect and collate annual budget requests from standing committees of Session
- 8. Communicate and educate the congregation regarding the financial health of the church and the responsibility of being Christian stewards
- 9. Oversee the preparation of, and review monthly financial statements (Treasurer's Report)
- 10. Coordinate and communicate with the Personnel Committee with regards to staff salaries
- 11. Arrange for an annual review of financial accounts and when Session requests, a formal audit
- 12. Develop an annual committee budget and manage committee budget on a monthly basis
- 13. Oversee other funds related to its work

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Melanie Nelson Clerk of Session



Abundant Gratitude!

In this season of Gratitude, Wonder, and Anticipation, none of the activities and worship events would be possible without the generous gifts and talents offered so many of MagPres's faithful, particularly those of you behind the scenes.

We want to give a Holiday Huzzah for the following folks with servants' hearts:

Brenda Wynsma for acting as Trunk or Treat Master of Ceremony

Laura Medrano for providing delicious and amazing catering for the church groundbreaking ceremony in June, the November Presbytery meeting, and our recent Thanksgiving Dinner...everything was delicious, hot, and seasoned with love!

Ann Laudermilk & Beth Zarecki for carving the turkeys and hams for our wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner.

John Wright, Saw Shein, James Walters, and Brenda Wynsma for leading us in a joyous Thanksgiving Sing-a-Long!

Marshall & Mary Lee for extensive help with the kitchen clean-up after Thanksgiving Dinner

👉 Heather Dickenson and Linda & Bill Bingham for anchoring our weekly Coffee & Fellowship

To all of the volunteers who helped beautify our campus, repair items in need, hang the greens, and lent a hand in the events mentioned above in big and small ways...Thank you so much!

Good News!

Advent & Christmas 2022

Advent Sermon Series: "Hope is On the Way"

NOV 27, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00am Worship Service: Advent Candle Lighting

11:15am Children's Christmas Eve Skit Rehearsal

11:30am Book Study: *The Angels of Christmas* (Intro & Ch 1)

DEC 4, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00am Worship & Communion: Advent Candle Lighting

11:15am Children's Christmas Eve Skit Rehearsal

11:30am Book Study: The Angels of Christmas (Chapter 2)

DEC 11, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00am Worship Service: Advent Candle Lighting
Redlands Adventist Academy Choir: Lessons & Carols
Christmas Food Box Donations Due

11:15am Children's Christmas Eve Skit Rehearsal

11:30am Book Study: The Angels of Christmas (Chapter 3)

DEC 18, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00am Worship Service: Advent Candle Lighting

11:15am Children's Christmas Eve Skit Rehearsal

11:15am Congregational Meeting

11:30am Book Study: The Angels of Christmas (Chapter 4)

DEC 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00pm Candlelight & Communion Service

DEC 25, 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DEC 26, OFFICE CLOSED—HOLIDAY OBSERVED

DEC 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE

JAN 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY

10:00am Worship Service & Communion

JAN 2, OFFICE CLOSED—HOLIDAY OBSERVED

Youth Group Resumes Dec 4th



Sunday nights from 6-8 p.m.

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

Join us in the youth room (enter off Potomac St, thru the gate on the left). Hope to see you there!



The Deacons and Mission Committee are collecting food items for distribution to needy families in our community this Christmas to make their holidays more joyous.

Please see the list below for items to donate. The estimated value of each food box is \$55.00.

You are welcome to give in any of these multiple ways:

- Purchase all the items on the list
- * Purchase a portion of the items on the list
- Make a monetary donation

Please turn in your items by Sunday, December 11th in the box at the front entrance of the church, or bring them to the church office Monday thru Thursday, 8:30am—3pm.

Thank you for your generous donations to our community. Have a joyous Holiday Season and thank you for helping others have one too!

Shopping List

(Please NO GLASS Jars)
☐ 1 box pancake mix
1 plastic bottle of syrup
2 cans of corn
2 cans of green beans
☐ 2 cans of fruit
☐ 2 cans of soup
☐ 1 pkg of pasta
☐ 1 can of spaghetti sauce
☐ 1 bag of rice
☐ 1 can sweet potatoes
☐ 1 bag of beans
☐ 1 box instant mashed potatoes
☐ 1 pkg of gravy mix
☐ 1 box of cereal
☐ 1 box cake mix
☐ 1 tub of frosting

1 bag of sugar (4 lbs)

1 plastic jar of peanut butter

1 bag or box of stuffing mix

Sunday, December #th, 10 am Join us for a joyous Advent Service of

Led by talented Singers and Musicians from the Redlands Adventist Academy. This is a good opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers to celebrate Advent and sing some of the favorite carols of the season.





CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 & the Password 7200 to join the fun.

This Advent we will study the story of the Jesus' coming. Sunday School includes Bible lessons, songs, crafts, & play time.

Our memory verse for December is Isaiah 9:6 "A child is born to us"

For more advanced Bible scholars, the full verse is "A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders.

He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

Scout Corner December 2022



As we approach the end of 2022, we also approach the end of Troop 16 here at MagPres.

They came over from a Charter Organization that closed their doors 4 1/2 years ago. A small group of 10 boys (5 of which have

since obtained the Eagle Rank with 2 more on the cusp), several of which have "graduated" to college, the Air Force, ... adulthood.

New boys have replaced several of those original Scouts. Merit Badges have been earned, outdoor skills and leadership skills have been developed, and citizenship rights and responsibilities have been reviewed. They have chosen to merge their small number with Troop 270, so for some of the boys the Scouting experience will continue.

We celebrate their time here at MagPres. Their final meeting will be a quarterly Court of Honor where Merit Badges are given out and rank advancements are acknowledged and, in this case, a little bit of history will be discussed.

The meeting and dinner are Wednesday Dec 14 at 7 pm in the Fireside Room. I think I speak for others in the church when I wish them well in whatever endeavors lie ahead for them.

--Tim Lewis, Troop 16

"On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God & my Country and obey the Scout Law: to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

--The Boy Scout Oath



Rehearsals are Sundays in the Sanctuary after the 10am worship service (11:15-noon) during December.

Parents may enjoy food and fellowship in the Fireside Room while the kids rehearse.

Please contact Michelle Knopf at mdknopf@gmail.com with any questions.

Treasurer's Report General Fund as of 10/31/2022



Balance Jan. 1, 2022 \$0.00 2022 Income \$328,131.75 2022 Expense \$355,994.74 Balance Sept 30, 2022 (\$27,852.99)

Session will meet again in December

WHERE 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, Zach Gipson, at rachwgipson@gmail.com or the church office.

Thank you all for your prayerful consideration.





CALLING ALL HANDY HANDS!

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

Our trusty Office Manager could use the help of a rotating crew of volunteers one morning a week to get out these *UpLook* newletters, stuff

inserts into Sunday bulletins, 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 weekly or even just occasionally, please email Adrien at Church@MagPres.com and let her know your possible availability (best days of the week & times). Thank you!!

Home is where the



Join Family Promise of Riverside in a fun family event on

Friday, Dec 9, 6-7:30 p.m.

on our own MagPres campus. Children will make their own take-home terrarium to help them remember that home is where your heart is no matter where you are. Sign up at the link on FPR's Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseRiverside/

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 the 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



Thank you for showing your support for our youth!

We received a donation of the equipment we asked for, and can't wait to put it to use

Thank you!!



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 in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to connect on zoom, please use this link:

Meeting ID: 259885602 Password: 7200

STANDING ANNOUNCEMENTS





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 **October**, we <u>collected 114 food items</u>. *Keep up the good work(!)* as we continue loving our neighbors who are hungry! Our next Two-Can collection date will be **December 11-**-let's provide a joyous holiday!

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 9 (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 DOOR OFFERING: The first Sunday of every month, we collect the <u>DEACONS DOOR OFFERING</u>. 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.

DON'T FORGET...



COFFEE TIME is now weekly 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!

(See page 3 for ways you can help make this a continued success.)





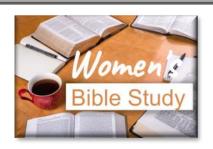
CHURCH DIRECTORY...ONLINE!

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 guestions? Please contact Pastor Paul (paul@magpres.com).

Women's Bible Study

Join us on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library (main office building) for Study, Fellowship, and Prayer. We discuss the week's Scripture Lessons from the previous Sunday and unpack them further. If you haven't had a chance to join us previously, please come and enjoy the discussion and fellowship.



December Eric Brandenberge The Rev. Claire Sc. Andrew (AJ) Knop Travis French Adrian (AJ) Belang Chris Cox Brenda Flowers Thomas Thornton The Rev. Paul Kno	er Dec 3 hlegel Dec 7 of Dec 12 Dec 18 geri Dec 19 Dec 19 Dec 22 Dec 24	(Birthday's Continue) Ann Brady Gavin Manley Kristina Andrew December Ann Janelle & Jeremy Anderson Karrie & Dan Brooks Susan & Roger Simmons	Dec 28 Dec 28 Dec 30	Million Strategic Strategi
	*	The Contract of the Contract o	DRI T	70

Magries Mastel Caleildal						Dec 2022 (Facilic IIIIIe - Eos Aligeies)
Sun	Mon	Tue	Med	Thu	E	Sat
APCPMRPR					2	8
	2022 EVE	Eventy Calend	ğ		5pm - EEEAC	9.50all - EEEAC
4	co l	9	7	8	6	10
10am - Communion	9:30am - Women's Bible	6pm - CE Cmte.	7pm - Troop 16	7pm - Choir Practice	Office Closed	9:30am - EEEAC
10am - Deacon Door		6:30pm - FOM Cmte.			5pm - EEEAC	5pm - Path of Life GUEST
10am - Worship Service		7pm - BaG Cmte.				
10:15am - Children's		7pm - Mission Cmte.				
11:15am - Christmas Skit						
11:15am - Coffee and						
11:30am - Advent Book						
6pm - Youth Group						
	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am - Christmas Boxes	9:30am - Women's Bible	6pm - Worship Cmte	Session Materials Due	UpLook Articles Due	Office Closed	9:30am - EEEAC
10am - Redlands	ŧ,	7pm - Stew Fin Cmte	10am - Banquet Prep	7pm - Choir Practice	5pm - EEEAC	
10am - TWO-CAN Sunday	Sarols	ı	7pm - Troop 16	-	-	
Monday Source			•			
I daill - Wolship Selvice						
10:15am - Children's						
11:15am - Christmas Skit						
11:15am - Coffee and						
11:30am - Advent Book						
12:30pm - Palacio						
6pm - Youth Group-Life						
	2	C	50	CC	CC	C
	2	50	7			
Toam - Worsnip Service	9:30am - Women's Bible	/pm - Deacon Meeting	章	/pm - Choir Practice	Office Closed	9:30am - EEEAC
10:15am - Children's		7pm - Session Meeting			5pm - EEEAC	5pm - Christmas Eve
11:15am - Christmas Skit			First Day of Winter			Christmas
11:15am - Coffee and						Play
11:15am -						
11:30am - Advent Book						
************ 25	26	27	28	29	30	31
CHRISTIMAS DAY	Paul Vacation					
10am - Worship Service	Office Closed			7pm - Choir Practice	Office Closed	9:30am - EEEAC
10:15am - Children's					5pm - EEEAC	
11:15am - Coffee and						New Year's Eve

Praye	Prayer Calenda	rdar		Su Mo Tu We Th Th To Th	Fr Sa Su Mo 2 3 1 2 9 10 8 9 16 17 15 16 23 24 22 23 30 31	January 2023 Tu We Th Fr Sa 3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 28
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	ecenter 2022	2022		Dec 1 JoAnn & Lance Alford	2 Colleen & Rick Allet	3 Janelle, Jeremy, Adrian Belangeri & Joseph Contreras
4 Endowment and Stewardship & Finance Committees	5 Ken Anderson	6 Kristina & Wayne Andrew	7 Ruth Baker	8 Debbie & Bret Benninger	9 Linda & Bill Bingham	10 Joy Bower
Mission Interpretation Committee	12 Candy & Bill Bowman	13 Ann Brady	14 Anna & Eric Brandenberger	15 Jenny, Dan, & Naomi Brooks	16 Karrie & Dan Brooks	17 Sarah & Mark Brooks
18 Worship Committee	19 Carla Carrasco	20 Carlos Castro	21 Deanna, Aaron, Kierstyn, Caitlyn, & Parker Cohen	22 Kathy & Neil Cohen	23 Sandy Cooper	24 Lori & The Rev. Brad Copeland
Unsheltered Families and Individuals without Families	26 Marge & Chris Cox	27 Donna Crossen	First Day of Winter 28 Kayla Crossen	29 Margy & David Crowley	30 Sharon DeLeal	31 Anne Denham
church@magpres.com			1			11/29/2022 1:00 PM





...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

December 2022



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

