



Magnolia Presbyterian Church

The UpLook

December 2023

Holiday Food Box donations due by Sunday, December 10th

Two-Can Sunday collection on Sunday, December 10th

Redlands Adventist Academy will lead worship on Sunday, December 10th

Christmas Eve Service will be held on Sunday, December 24th, at 5:00pm.

A Pastor's Ponderings

Advent is a time of waiting. A season of expectation. While we tend to be busier with preparations for the holiday season, we must also learn how to wait. But waiting is something we do all the time.

We wait in traffic, we wait in line at the grocery store, we wait in line to get that cup of Starbucks or that burger from In & Out, we wait on hold to make a doctor's appointment then wait again in the doctor's office to be seen. But do we really know how to wait?



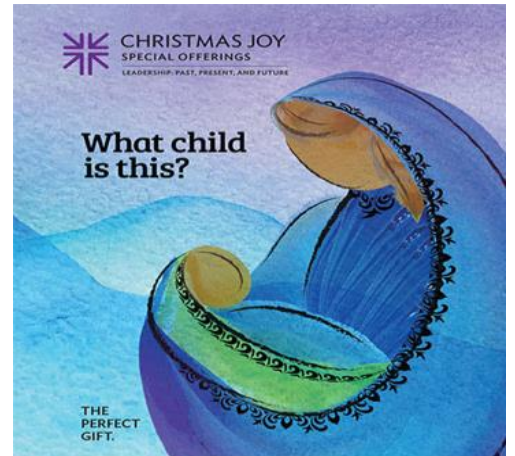
I don't know about you, but when I can, I use fast-trak to skip the traffic, I order groceries online, and I even started using Teladoc to avoid the wait in the doctor's office. If you are anything like me, we are part of an instant gratification culture. But Advent invites us to something different.

Even if we fast-forward the calendar, we still have to wait for Christmas. Whether we like it or not, we have to wait. But we don't have to be docile or passive as we wait, we can be active.

We have made available an advent devotional/calendar that gives us opportunities to be active while we wait. Each day provides us with an activity, something to do, instead of mindlessly passing the time. It helps us to be intentional as we wait.

As we wait to celebrate the birth of Christ and anticipate Christ's second coming, may we do so with intentionality. May we savor the days and actively wait on God. And after the waiting is over, may you and yours experience a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your actively waiting pastor,
Paul



When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church - past, present and future.

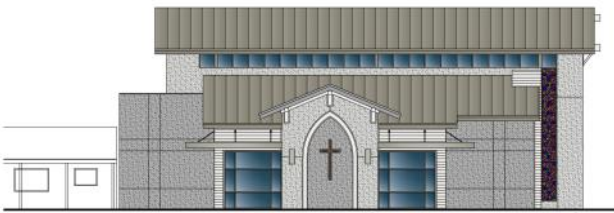


BUILDING DESIGN TEAM UPDATE

The Design Team (Ann Laudermilk, Tim Lewis, David King, Melissa Holden, Brenda Flowers, Heather Dickenson, and Pastor Paul) is pleased to share two important steps have been underway in recent weeks. The new design was presented by City staff to the Cultural Heritage Board in November. Brenda Flowers and our architect, Jim Broeske, were in attendance. The design updates were discussed and approved by the Board, with many positive comments.

The City Planning Department is currently conducting their Substantial Conformance review, with written comments expected to be received during the first week of December. The architect reports that he has received favorable comments from Planning so far and he is optimistic that it will be approved on first review.

The architect is in the process of requesting fee proposals from the various engineers needed to take the approved design through the Construction Document phase, which is anticipated to take approximately 3 months. The Design Team thanks you for your continued patience and prayers.



Thank You From The FOM Committee !!!



**THANK YOU FOR
MAKING OUR
THANKSGIVING
FEAST A WONDER-
FUL EVENT!**

Your Fellowship, Outreach and Membership (FOM) team wishes to thank everyone for their support with donations of treasure, talent, time, and participation! We couldn't have had the wonderful outcome without your generous contributions. Thank you to all the volunteers that set-up and put away the tables and chairs and all who helped in the kitchen with preparation and cleaning!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP
WITH THIS YEAR'S HANGING
OF THE GREENS!**

Your Fellowship, Outreach and Membership (FOM) team wishes to thank everyone for their awesome assistance with this year's Hanging of the Greens! Without your invaluable efforts we could not have the sanctuary ready the Advent Season. Our thanks to:

**Brenda Flowers (pre-event staging)
Pastor Paul Knopf
Ann Laudermilk
Mary Lee
Tim Lewis
Lance and Laurie Mordue
Bethany and Patrick Na
Carolyn and Chuck Raughley (pre-event staging)
Evelyn and Kris Shea
John Wright
Elizabeth and John Zarecki**



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



'Christmas is upon us... and amid the hustle and bustle of planning for family visits, baking, shopping, wrapping, decorating, tree-trimming, and all the rest, it is Session's hope you have spent some time in the quiet too.

So many of the Christmas carols we sing, have a peaceful, silent element to them:

"What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping"

"Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm, all is bright"

"Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head"

"The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing"

"O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie"

"Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill!"

"On a cold winter's night, that was so deep"

"Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains"

"Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep is heavenly peace"

Merry Christmas!!

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.

Dec 10 Cookie Decorating

Dec 17 Youth Group Caroling

Dec 24 & 31 No meetings

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

CHURCH PARKING LOT

Please note the main church parking
lot will be closed for repair
Mon-Wed, December 11th-13th.

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
147 items! Let's see if
we can top that for De-
cember!



Two-Can Sunday!

**The next TWO-CAN Sun-
day is DECEMBER 10th.**

DEACONS CORNER

It's December and Christmas time is soon to be here. The stores have been telling us since Halloween that Santa is coming. Retailers started "Black Friday" sales before Thanksgiving. It seems like the reason for Christmas has been forgotten. Sure, giving and receiving gifts is nice but there used to be more to celebrate. There was an event that happened in a land far away, and a time long ago that was to change the world. There was once a young woman, named Mary, with a deep faith in her God. She was told by an angel that because of her faith, she would be blessed with the spirit of God and bear a child she would name Jesus, who would save mankind. Mary went to Bethlehem with Joseph to whom she was engaged, to register for the census.

According to Luke 2:6; While they were there, time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

This is the story of why we celebrate Christmas. The birth of Jesus, the savior. Glory to God, and peace on earth. With fighting in the middle east and Ukraine, homelessness, and poverty it is hard to imagine but I still pray glory to God and for peace on earth.

Laurie Mordue



SPARK PROGRAM

Magnolia Presbyterian Church with Midas Corporation (Midas of Orange-Jason Robinson), have joined together in a new endeavor called "Project Spark". The intent of the program is to provide a running reliable vehicle to a family or person in need to be used primarily to get to and from work, school, and doctors. With a donation of a vehicle Midas will fix and Magnolia will gift to the person or family. This is where you come in, you can donate a vehicle with minimal expense or maybe you know of someone who has a vehicle they could donate? If you can help, please let the Mission Committee know. Mission Chair, Laurie Ludwig



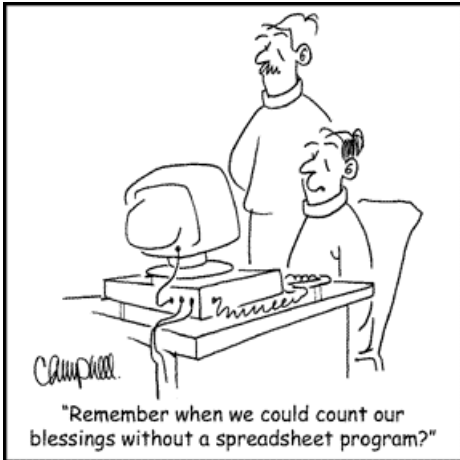
CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh-fully human and fully God- became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us - leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life. The Perfect Gift. Through the Christmas Joy offering we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us- past, present and future-who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much. The offering will be collected on December 24 th or before with envelopes in the pews. Mission Chair, Laurie Ludwig

Are you wondering what to get the person who has everything?

You do not have to wonder anymore! The "Presbyterian Giving Catalog" is in the church office now! This catalog has various gift ideas and price range that you can purchase in the name of yourself or someone on your Christmas gift list to help others around the world. You can purchase a piglet for \$40. A Kitchen Kit for \$25. Or Farming Tools for \$10. Many more items to choose from. Stop by the church office for details! Mission Chair, Laurie Ludwig

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: Will resume Monday, January 8th.

Join us then for a relaxing time to delve into Scripture, pray, 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: 259885602 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. We collected 147 items in November. Let's see if we can top that this month! Keep up the good work as we continue loving our neighbors who are hungry! **Our next Two-Can collection date will be December 10th.**

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 donation of a working printer.

CE is also 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.

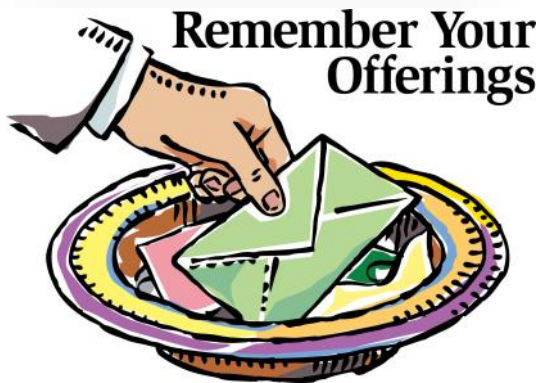


CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

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!!



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.

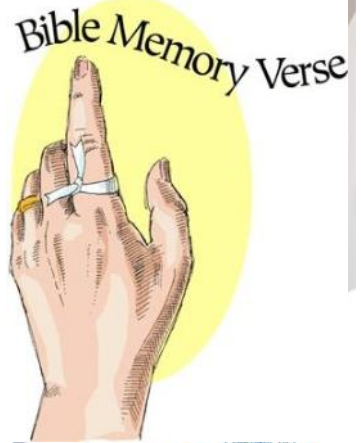
Sunday School includes Bible lessons, songs, crafts, and play time

Our memory verse for December is Jeremiah 23:5

"I will raise up a righteous descendant from David's line, and he will rule as a wise king."

For more advanced Bible scholars, the full verse is:

"The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up a righteous descendant from David's line, and he will rule as a wise king. He will do what is just and right in the land. "



DON'T FORGET...

Mag Café will be available December 10th right after the 10:00a.m. Worship Service presented by Redlands Adventis Academy.

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



DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR FAMILY PROMISE OF RIVERSIDE

33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH | 5-9PM
3525 RIVERSIDE PLAZA DR STE 204, RIVERSIDE, CA,
92506

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **NGB7GLV**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count toward the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

...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

December 2023



December 2023 Prayer Calendar

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
					1 Wayne & Kristi Andrew	2 Ruth Bender
3 FP of Riverside	4 Debbie & Bret Benninger	5 Bill & Linda Bingham	6 Joy Bower	7 the Bowman family	8 Ann Brady	9 Eric & Anna Brandenberger
10 Redlands Adventist Academy	11 Dan & Karrie Brooks	12 Martina Catton	13 the Cohen family	14 Kathy & Neil Cohen	15 Sandy Cooper	16 Brad & Lori Copeland
17 Sunday School Teachers	18 Chris & Marge Cox	19 Donna Crossen	20 Kayla Crossen	21 Margy & David Crowley	22 Sharon Della	23 Anne Denham
24 Youth Leaders	25 the World	26 Hannah Dickenson	27 Heather & Richard Dickenson	28 Becky Doshier	29 Mike & Janet Doshier	30 the Duncan family
31 the New Year						



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



December Birthdays

Eric Brandenberger	3rd	AJ Belangeri	19th	Paul Knopf	25th
Claire Schlegel	7th	Chris Cox	19th	Ann Brady	28th
AJ Knopf	12th	Brenda Flowers	22nd	Gavin Manley	28th
Travis French	18th	Thomas Thornton	24th	Kristi Andrew	30th

December Anniversaries

Janelle & Jeremy Anderson	13th	Dan & Karrie Brooks	19th	Roger & Susie Simmons	19th
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DECEMBER 2023 MAGPRES CALENDAR

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