

# 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. 3

March 2019

### **Lent—Easter Activities**



March 6: Ash Wednesday. Soup Supper at 6 pm; Worship with Communion at 7 pm

March 10—April 6: Growth Groups at six locations

March 6—April 21:
"Cultivating and Letting Go"
Lent devotional book—get
yours at the Fellowship Hall
Welcome Table

April 14: Palm Sunday April 18: Maundy Thursday April 19: Joint Good Friday service, with youth

participating, at Calvary Presbyterian

April 20: Easter Egg Hunt April 21: Easter Sunday

# Growth Groups are still forming

A four-week class: March 10 — April 5

### Why: Making Sense of God's Will

by Adam Hamilton

Where is God when tragedy and suffering strike? Get fresh insight to the age-old question of how to understand the will of God. Rejecting simplistic answers and unexamined assumptions, the author lays out core ideas for comprehending God's plan for the world.

Groups at six locations, but call the church office for specifics!

## **Minister's Musing**

Why do you stand so far away Lord, hiding yourself in troubling times?

Psalm 10:1

Anyone who has spent any time in conversation with a young child knows the merry-go-round of futility that one rides on in trying to explain the reason for a decision or come up with an explanation of the sometimes unexplainable, in response to that little three letter word, "WHY?" The answer I heard most often from my parents and thoroughly unsatisfying was, "Because I said so." As we mature, however, this little question begins to take on more importance and is the catalyst that helps lead us into adulthood and hopefully maturity. We have all perhaps at one time or another asked this question during times of struggle and pain. We may even be asking ourselves this now in response to the fire in the sanctuary. If we haven't had these times of doubt, it is likely that others close to us have, and may have even posed to us how we reconcile our faith in a loving God in the midst of suffering. In my own life and in conversations with others about God and faith, these and similar questions seem to be the ones that come up most often and also seem to be the most difficult to answer adequately. "Why does God allow pain and suffering? Why do my prayers go unanswered? Why can't I see God's will for my life? Why should I trust God when nothing seems to make sense?"

If you've spent any time reading the Bible, or writings of women and men of faith, you know that many of them have wrestled with God over similar matters. As followers of Christ commissioned to share Jesus with the world, it is important for us to not only ponder these questions for ourselves, but be able to speak clearly into the lives of others who are hurting.

This Lenten season our four-session growth group study will center around these questions as we read and discuss together Adam Hamilton's book, Why? Making Sense of God's Will. This study promises to stimulate interesting discussion and bring depth to our spiritual growth as we contemplate together the age-old question, "WHY?"

In Christ.

**Pastor Claire** 

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

### A Pastor's Pondering

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is celebrated this year on March 6th (we'll have a simple supper at 6pm followed by a worship service at 7pm). Lent is often signified by fasting: some give up

chocolate, others give up television, I give up football. Because our siblings who identify as Roman Catholic give up meat on Fridays during lent, you usually can get a good deal on fish sandwiches at fast food chains.

While Lent is known for giving something up, some Christian faith traditions choose to take something on. For example instead of avoiding something for the 40 days of Lent, they will instead volunteer at a shelter or a feeding program. One year, I participated in the SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge, which invited people to only eat what a person on food stamps could afford (for more information, visit: https://www.moneycrashers.com/snap-food-stamp-challenge/). This meant I could only spend \$5 a day, or \$30 a week, on food. This allowed me to better understand the struggles one faces when your primary source of food is food stamps.





This year for Lent, your Co-Pastors are doing a sermon series entitled:

Cultivating and Letting Go. Each week, we will invite you all to both cultivate something, a practice, a skill, a virtue, and also let something go, with something new to practice each week. We believe this sermon series will be immensely helpful, practical, and transformative. We hope you'll plan to attend worship throughout Lent and *invite a friend*.

As part of this series, there will also be a take home devotional which allows you to reflect on a Scripture and invites you to consider things you might want to cultivate or let go in addition to the ones focused on during Sunday worship. This

devotional will also invite us to use the right side of our brains and include a Lenten Calendar that you can color. These will be available in the Fireside Room and we hope you'll take advantage of this during Lent.

Your "leaning into Lent" Co-Pastor,

Paul

Ending Hunger One Step at a Time CROP WALK, March 10, 12:30 pm A four-mile walk starting at Temple Beth-El. WITH treats by Laura Medrano after the walk. SIGN UP to walk or to pledge \$\$ toward a walker.

Set your clock one hour AHEAD on Saturday, March 9.



The Women's Bible Study group meets
Mondays 9:30-11:00 am
in the Christian Education Building.
March Meetings: March 4, 11, 18, 25

Men's Group meets the second Monday of every month. Their next meeting will be March 11 at 7 pm, at the home of Marshall Lee. All men are welcome for lively discussion!

# TWO-CAN SUNDAY REPORT

147 Cans Collected in February
Let's see if we can double that in March.
Bring your two cans of food on Sunday, March 10
for distribution to Lutheran Social Services.
What we give is MATCHED by a grant! So give generously.

most needed: Breakfast foods, protein sources.

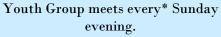
For updates on the aftermath of the Sanctuary Fire, please visit www.magpres.com/fire-updates If you would like a printed update, please contact the church office and we will send you

### Scout Corner

- \* The Scouts enjoyed doing the Flag
  Ceremony for both services on
  Scout Sunday. I believe they were
  quite impressed by the large percentage of the
  congregation that stood when asked if any were
  Scouts (Boy or Girl) when they were young.
- \* The Troop had a fun outing canoeing on the Colorado River Presidents Day Weekend.
- \* Wednesday meetings for March will concentrate on completion of Merit Badges.
- \* The Quarterly Court of Honor will be March 27. All who are interested in scouting, parents or youth, are welcome to attend.
- Even though we have permission to park the Scout trailer next to the Fellowship Hall, we are looking for options that may be required due to the reconstruction of the sanctuary. If you have a larger lot, please consider.

Report on Peace and Global Witness Offering.

Our contribution to the ministries of compassion, advocacy, development, peacemaking, Christian formation education and witness was \$404.00



Middle School (grades 5 to 8) meets from 5 to 6:30 pm.

 $\begin{array}{c} High \; School \; (grades \; 9 \; to \; 12) \; meets \\ from \; 7 \; to \; 8{:}30 \; pm. \end{array}$ 

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.



July 16—20, 2019 YOUTH TRIENNIUM

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN Theme "Here's My Heart"

WE HAVE TWO YOUTH GOING TO THIS EVENT!

## **Winter Camp**

Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center For Junior High and High School Students March 22—March 24

# A Bright Future

# Ontario Fury (Arena Soccer)

As a group, Magnolia will be attending the Ontario Fury indoor soccer game on Sunday March 24th 5pm at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario. Tickets are \$5 each, a maximum for \$20 for a family. Parking is \$10 so carpool if you can. Please sign up and pay by March 10th.

Join us for a St. Patrick's day themed game night on Friday March 15th at 6:30 pm! Bring some green food to share and some board games to share! This event is Family-Friendly with games for all ages! There will be food to share and a scavenger hunt with a prize! Contact Erin Gettis if you have any questions or would like to donate items!

All-church WORKDAY. Saturday, April 6 8 am—noon Watch your bulletin for more details!



### 2019 "FEARLESS GENEROSITY"

January Financial Report: The January 2019 Treasurer's report indicates an income of \$39,333.43 and \$39,896.87 in expenses. The result is a current negative balance of \$563.44 for the month of January.

Thank you for supporting your Church's 2019 budget with your Per Capita giving of \$36.22 and staying current with your pledge.

WE CAN LEARN FROM OUR **CHILDREN** 

The Mag Pres Sunday School children are listening and willing to act.



Christian Ed. Committee

They have taken to heart the December lessons about the baby Jesus being born in a lowly stable and how he brought his message to the poor. They wanted to do something to help people in their city who didn't have food or clothes. So, they brought their old, no longer used clothes for the homeless to be distributed at Calvary Presbyterian Church.

They also listened to the lessons about opening their hearts to let Jesus in and allow Jesus to heal a broken heart. They have made Valentine cards to be given to shut ins and lonely older people. We can all learn how to listen and act from our children.

### **SESSION HIGHLIGHTS - February 2019**

In just under a two week period, December 24, 2018-January 6, 2019, your Session had three Called meetings. Called Meetings are special meetings for specific purposes.

After the fire of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, there were pressing decisions needing Session approval and updates to be given, and so they met. Immediate needs were approved: holding the Christmas Eve and all future services in Fellowship Hall until the sanctuary space can be used again; and installation of the chain link fence for safety. Additionally, Elders approved the designations of a contact person (Pastor Paul) to the insurance company; and a media spokesperson (Elder Ann Laudermilk). The service of Wholeness and Healing, was approved. And in true Presbyterian fashion, sub-committees were formed. One, to obtain a source for and purchase chairs for Fellowship Hall with a designated dollar amount already donated for this need. And two, a sub-committee authorized to obtain and contract with vendors for three phases of work: inventory and storage; demolition; and rebuild and repair. This committee was also given the approval to request an advance payment from the insurance company for the purpose of keeping Magnolia up and running.

Yes, this all seems very business-like, and this is the responsibility of the Ordered Ministry of Ruling Elder. However, at the December 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, hours before they would gather again to celebrate our Savior's



birth, your Elders were asked to share words that reflected their thoughts: Hope, Opportunity, Connectiveness to Community, and Strength. As Timm High closed in prayer, he reminded us that in biblical times, fire could be destructive, but also a time of renewal. And it is with that in mind, your Session will face this year.

"I will baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire". Luke 3:16

Melanie Nelson Clerk of Session

#### **Deacon's Corner**

#### WHO'S YOUR DEACON?

How is the New Year treating you all so far? Well, I hope!

This is Robin Smith, your Deacon and Deacon moderator for the next few years. I just wanted start this New Years with a quick introduction of your Deacons here at Magnolia.

Besides myself, Amanda Schlegel, Barbara Johnson, Cathy McGraw, Danielle Good, Edith Grant, Everal Hathaway, Evelyn Shea, Gary Grant, Gale Teunissen, Janet Doshier, Mary Lee, Melanie Nelson, Rosie Quinones, and Susie Phillips, are all here to serve and support the congregation at Magnolia Presbyterian.

As you Deacons, we are here for many reasons and in many ways. Each of you, for the most part, are assigned to a deacon and are a part of their "flocks". Many of you may already know who your deacon is but if you do not, please reach out to myself, any other deacon, the pastors, or call the office to find out.

We as deacons want to support the Church family in anyway we can especially in times of need, crisis, or loss of a loved one. We want to share in good time and challenging times with you and your families and lend support whenever possible.

Your Church Deacon, Robin Smith

# Session Meetings and Minutes

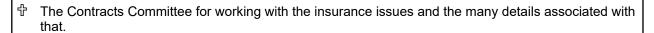
Session meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 pm in the church library. These meetings are open, so if you would like to attend and listen to the conversation, you are most welcome.

Copies of all session minutes are available in the office, or by email request.

## A Bright Future

### <u>Time and Talent Recognitions</u> Thanks to...

- Laura Medrano, Mary Lee, Judy O'Bier, Heather Dickenson, and Sydney and Robin Smith for reorganizing the Fireside room closets, packing dishes and hanging pictures.
- ♣ Aaron Cohen for working with contractors to upgrade the lighting in the Fellowship Hall.
- Gary Welman, Aaron Cohen, and Jeff Ludwig for installing the magnetic whiteboard in the Fireside Room



- Rev. Brad Copeland for upgrading the framing around the stained glass windows, and just generally fixing and improving the property.
- The Deacons and Laura Medrano for a lovely reception after Nita Fages' memorial service.
- \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Saw Shein and his crew for the colorful mural in the Christian Education hallway. WOW!

Raymond Ward — March 1 Lucas Wynsma — March 2 Mary Lee — March 3 Nick French—March 4 Jackson Duncan — March 6 Allie Manley—March 7 Ann Lowry — March 9 Pat Platner—March 9 Adrineh Spring—March 9



Janet Doshier — March 12
Kendall Rinker — March 12
Gary Platner—March 16
Eleanor Miller — March 17
John Reinhardt — March 23
Kathy Cohen — March 26
Amanda Schlegel — March 28
Michelle Manley — March 29

#### **March Anniversaries**

Griffen, Karn and Suzanne — March 1 (33 years) Kirby, Dick and Bonnie — March 3 (40 years) Cox, Chris and Marge — March 11 (13 years) Williams, King and Bev — March 15 (39 years) Lewis, Tim and Diana — March 22 (39 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.

A Rich Tradition.

#### KITCHEN DISHES

If my memory serves, it was in the late 1950's or maybe early 60's the Magnolia Presbyterian Church Administration committee, on which Bill served, decided the church kitchen was too small and needed remodeling. The Mariners group collected funds to expand the kitchen, then purchased a new fridge and stove.

When Mariners from Magnolia invited groups from other churches there were not enough dishes. Everyone had to bring their own place setting, so we needed to purchase a large set. We collected Blue Chip stamps from church members until we had enough to buy the current set of Corelle dishes.

I remember not being able to get as many sets as we wanted the first time. When we made a second trip to the redemption center to get more dishes, it looked like they no longer had the same pattern. It took some searching but we were lucky enough to find more.

These Corelle dishes have served the church well for 50 plus years.

However, they are no longer used and it looks like the cupboard space could be put to better use. Therefore, you have my blessing to pass them on to whomever or whatever organization would like them.

Blessings, Gale Teunissen



# These dishes are being given away and will be available at the church through March 31st.

# 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 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. 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.

### SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE CHURCH

The church has a Facebook page and now there is an Instagram page too; post at #magpreschurch.

Social media is a great way to promote MagPres, its mission and activities, but...Please think before you post to Facebook or #magpreschurch!

Think: Why am I posting?

Think: Will anyone be put in danger?

Think: Will anyone be embarrassed by this post? Think: Will the church's reputation be tarnished?

Think: Does this post reflect church or personal beliefs? Think: Have I checked a # to make sure it is appropriate?

Think: What if I run into a church member who asks about the post?







NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID RIVERSIDE, CA PERMIT NO. 490

#### **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



MARCH 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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
	Pastor Claire Study Leave					8 am - EEEAC-S and FH, various
All dates, tim	ies, and locations ar	e subject to change.			Office Closed	
Please see www	/.magpres.com/calen	dar for the most rec	ent		7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	
	calendar.				6:45pm - Mission Outreach Night	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9am - Deacons Door Offering	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	Office Closed	8 am - EEEAC-S and FH, various
9am - Worship w/ Communion @	9:30am - Women's Monday	5:45pm - CE Committee	1 pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall	6 pm - Alleluia Ringers	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	10am - Sack Lunch Prep @
10am - Stater Bros. Cards For	1 pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall	6pm - FOM Committee	6pm - Ash Wednesday Service	7 pm - Choir Practice	5pm - EEEAC Worship	11am - Jim Bower Service
11am - Worship w/ Communion +	7pm - Young Life @ Young Life	7pm - BaG Committee				12pm - Sack Lunch Serve @
11am - Worship w/Communion +		7pm - MIT Committee				4pm - Path of Life Meal Prep and
3 pm - Church Choir Concert @			F12N			
5pm - Combined Youth 5-6:,6-7,			MEDNESDAY			
5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30			MERMINISTAL			
7 p m - HS Youth 7-8:30						
			· <b>-</b>			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Saving Time starts	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	Office Closed	8 am - EEEAC-S and FH, various
TWO-CAN Sunday	9:30am - Women's Monday	6pm - Outside Group Rental @	1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall	6pm - Alleluia Ringers	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	
9am - Worship + SS	1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall	6pm - Worship Committee	7pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4	7 pm - Choir Practice	5 pm - EEEAC Worship	
11am - Worship + SS	7pm - Men's Group	7pm - Stewardship Committee			6:30pm - Family Game Night	
12:30pm - CROP WALK @ Temple	7pm - Young Life @ Young Life					
5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30						
7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	WINTER CAMP (Jr. and Sr. High) @ Big B	ear Lake Christian Camp and
9am - Worship + SS	9:30am - Women's Monday	7pm - Deacon Meeting	1 pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall	5 pm - Vow Renewal (private)	Office Closed	Pastor Paul Vacation
11am - Worship + SS	1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall		7pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4	6pm - Alleluia Ringers	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	Presbytery of Riverside Stated
5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30	7pm - Young Life @ Young Life			7 pm - Choir Practice	5pm - EEEAC Worship	8am - EEEAC-S and FH, various
7 pm - HS Youth 7-8:30						
0:15 Called Congregational Meeting						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Pastor Paul Vacation						
WINTER CAMP (Jr. and Sr. High) @	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	Women's Retreat @ Luther Glen Co	nference Center, 9404, 39136
9am - Worship + SS	9:30am - Women's Monday	7pm - Session Meeting-L	1 pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall	6 pm - Alleluia Ringers	Office Closed	8 am - EEEAC-S and FH, various
11am - Worship + SS	1 pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall		7pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4	7 pm - Choir Practice	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	
5pm - Fury Arena Soccer	7pm - Young Life @ Young Life		7pm - Troop 16 Court of Honor		5pm - EEEAC Worship	
31	1	2			5	6
Women's Retreat @ Luther Glen	March 11, 18, 25 a					
9am - Worship + SS	13, 20, 27 = Growt		A	~~~	Sr.	
11am - Worship + SS	at various locations					
5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30	at various locations	).				
7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30						
. p.m - 110 100th 7-0.00						
					-	

# **MagPres Prayer Calendar**

# **March 2019**

March 2019							Α	pril 20	19				
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
_					1	2	_	1	2	3	4	5	
10	4 11	12	6 13	14	8 15	16	14	8 15	9 16	10 17	11 18	12 19	13
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	2
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 24	25	26	27	28		2 Karn and Suzanne Griffen
lease pray for the individence listed traits throughou	uals listed Monday - Satur t the week.	day. On Sundays, pray foi	and cultivate			
Be informed:     https://www.voteinfo.     net (Elected Officials)	4 Sandra Griffith	5  Beverley Guidero	6 June Hall	7 Everal Hathaway	8 Tom and Marti Hendrix	9 Nobei and Carol Hill
Be Compassionate: http://pda.pcusa.org (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)	11  Betty Hillebrand	12 Melissa Holden; Sonia Campos and Gio	13  Krista Hollenhorst	14 Richard and Jeanne Hood	15 Dave and Cyndee Hurlebaus	16 Tom and Julie Hutchinson; Caitlin
Be Optomistic: https://www.goodne wsnetwork.org/ (Good News)	18 Tessa Islas	19 John and Connie Jackson	20 Barbara Johnson	21  Dave and Mary Josselyn	22  David and Claudia King	23  Jim and Julie King
24 Sing Praises: https://hymnary.org/ (Online Hymnals)	25  Dick and Bonnie Kirby	26 Paul and Michelle Knopf; Ekolu and AJ	27 Lowell and Dee Lacy; Deanna	28  James and Ann  Laudermilk	29 Marshall and Mary Lee	30 Robert and Lee Lewis
31 Study the Scriptures: https://thebibleproject.com/	Apr 1	2			5	6