

# Magnolia Presbyterian Church

## UpLook

### February 2021



## Pastor's Pondering

In undergraduate and graduate school, there was a dating convention that we were required to adhere to (dating as in this happened on this date, as opposed to, "wanna go out sometime" :-p ). This was to adhere to an established standard in academic circles. This convention changed the dating system from BC and AD to BCE and CE.

BC means "Before Christ" and AD means *Anno Domini*, or "Year of Our Lord." In the now standard dating system, BCE means "Before the Common Era" and CE means "Common Era." So why did this change happen?



Some argue this change happened to be more inclusive of others. Imagine being Jewish, Hindu, or Buddhist and using a convention that referred to another religion's God. Others argue that the newer, now standard convention, is more accurate; Jesus was not born at 0, but more likely 4 or even 6 BCE. No matter where one falls on the reason for the change, it is the standard way of dating today.

I have been reflecting on "BC" a bit this last month, not because I prefer "Before Christ" to "Before Common Era," but because I have such fond memories *before* coronavirus. As a congregation, we talk about what we did as a church before the COVID-19 pandemic. For me, personally, I think about how my life was different before I got coronavirus and now after.

Being diagnosed with coronavirus was scary. Hearing stories in the news and from others about how contracting the virus was a death sentence raised concern for me upon hearing I indeed had the virus. I turned to a scripture that has been uplifting to so many since it was first written, Isaiah 43:1-5 (selected phrases): **But now, says the**

**LORD—the one who created you, Jacob, the one who formed you, Israel: Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched and flame won't burn you...Because you are precious in my eyes, you are honored, and I love you...Don't fear, I am with you.** This verse brought so much comfort to me in the midst of fear and I hope it will bring you comfort when you need it.

As I end my pondering for this month, we will soon transition to a post pandemic church. What will it look like? Will it be like it was before? How long until we get there?

As we enter into this new era of being the church, with all the uncertainty and maybe even a little anxiety; may we never forget who we are, ones whom God loves dearly, and whose we are, that we belong to God. No matter what we face: a fire, the coronavirus, and an unknown, post pandemic world; God is with us every step of the way.

Your Comforted Co-Pastor,

## Church App has arrived!

Magnolia Presbyterian Church is now on the Apple App store. Please go to your device's AppStore and search "Magnolia Presbyterian Church" and hit **download now**. This is going to be a place where you can go to connect with everything "MagPres"

*Google Play Store download coming soon.*



# Volunteers needed to read Scriptures during Lenten Season

We are approaching the season of Lent, where we reflect and celebrate Easter. Beginning Wednesday, February 17, 2021 through Saturday, April 3, 2021, we are looking for volunteers to record a Bible verse reading for each day of Lent. We will post the videos of the readings to our social media accounts, including our Facebook page. If you would like to participate with the video presentations, please contact Linda Bingham at (951) 743-1853 or via e-mail at [wbingham@charter.net](mailto:wbingham@charter.net).



## Deacon's Corner

During the first worship service of 2020, we drew a word printed on a star that was to be our focus or challenge for the year. I drew the word sympathy. My daughter, Ann, laughed and said, "It's going to be a long year." She knows my view to be very pragmatic. In looking up the meaning of sympathy, I found that it means to share the feelings, suffering, or grief of another at quite a deep level. One synonym is to be compassionate.

Little did I know that feeling actual sympathy in 2020 would not be that challenging. I'm sympathetic towards so much: for those who suffer Covid, for the families of those who have died, for people losing jobs or businesses suffering great financial impact, for healthcare workers and first responders who face impossible challenges, for teachers and their students isolated from each other, for our church life that's not the same, actually for all the differences in our lives.

I accepted the call to serve a second term as a Deacon and was installed on January 3. Showing compassion was part of the vows taken. My study Bible suggests that the compassion of Jesus towards the misfortunes of others was shown through miracles. As Deacons, we are not miracle workers. Covid has put restrictions on our ministry. We have lost the ability to make those important face to face contacts with shut ins and others. We haven't prepared or served food for memorials. Communion service or greeters aren't needed. What we are doing is continuing food outreach to the community through Lutheran Social Services. We are meeting financial needs of members. For these ministries, we would appreciate your continued financial support through donations marked Deacon's door offering. We are also holding our monthly meetings on Zoom discussing creative ways to stay connected to our special friends and flock members. We pray for the many needs of church families. It may be several months into 2021, but we know our lives will eventually return to normal. I just had a thought. My self-selected new word for 2021 put on a shining star is OPTIMISM.



--Barbara Johnson, MagPres Deacon

Interested in serving on a **committee**? There are six that need your participation  
Contact one of the pastors or call the church office.  
It could be the start of a beautiful friendship -- and service to MagPres.

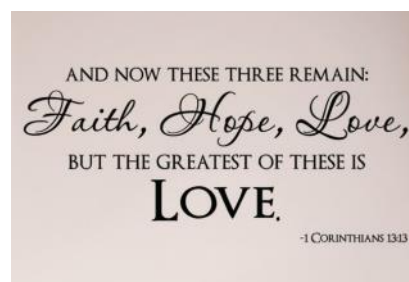
Worship      Christian Education  
Buildings and Grounds      Missions  
Stewardship      Fellowship, Outreach and Membership



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

One of my favorite commercials right now is the “helping them not become their parents”... You probably know the one I’m talking about “we all see it...BLUE!”

“Do we really need a sign to remind us to Live, Laugh and Love?”  
Maybe we do need signs, to remind us of God’s presence.



As we begin the New Year, Session has faith, hope and love going forward with:

- ◆ Missions Committee partnering with Family Promise
- ◆ The Sanctuary re-build process moving forward
- ◆ New Elders and Deacons starting “Rooted”, the basis of moving from a program-based church to a group-oriented church.
- ◆ Stewardship campaign of “Thrive”
- ◆ Fellowship committee continuing to bring virtual activities to members
- ◆ Worship Committee providing spiritual on-line services until we are able to worship once again in person.

*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. 2 Peter 3:18*

Melanie Nelson, Clerk of Session

*P.S. Although I still struggle to pronounce quinoa, I do know how to open a PDF!!*

## Session Meetings and Minutes

Session meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday\* of every month at 7 pm via Zoom.

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.

\*Adjustments made for holidays.

## Zoom Groups

**Meeting ID for all Meetings 259 885 602 (password 7200) or use the link**

<https://zoom.us/j/259885602?pwd=VUJQMxROSzVzMy91amMyaGpQQk9QQT09>

Having problems with Zoom? Call the church office

(leave a message! if no one answers) and we'll help you during the week.

**10 - 10:30 a.m. Time for Children | 12:30 p.m. Zoom Community | Prayer Group**

## ACCESS WORSHIP ONLINE

You can participate in worship by going to [magpres.com/watch](http://magpres.com/watch) or by visiting our Facebook page ([facebook.com/magpres](https://facebook.com/magpres)).

# Things to Know / Things to Do

## Offering Envelopes

There are TWO extra envelopes in your offering packet.

1. The “Per Capita Apportionment” funds some essential functions of the Church (PCUSA), both nationally and locally. **Per Capita for 2021 is \$36.00 per member.**

2. “Initial Offering” covers the cost of the envelopes and postage. **Suggestion: \$4.00 per packet.**

Please use the appropriate envelope and mark on your check what it is for.

## Office Closed

Monday, February 15 in observance of Presidents Day.

## Crossways

We have two sessions every Wednesday. You can still join! Call the church office 951-684-7200.

## Magnolia Has Ears To Hear!

Bible Listening Program. Contact Eric Brandenberger at [magnoliahasearstohear@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliahasearstohear@gmail.com).

A group of people listening individually, at their own pace, to personally hear God, then interacting with the group as they feel comfortable for support and fellowship.

Blog: [www.magpres.com/ivegotears](http://www.magpres.com/ivegotears)

YouTube listening link: <http://youtu.be/B2t1R3nfzjQ>

## Building Update

MagPres family;

This is my first update on building and after our church meeting some clarification might be in order.

Your Session spent many hours on reviewing all the comments members sent in. Each and every comment was addressed and discussed. Nothing was left out. It appears there still are questions regarding the roof line.

After reviewing the design, noting all comments for and against this concept your Session decided on the Inverted Roof line. We talked to everyone we could think of in order to get all information on this design. I'm sorry some church members do not like it, but for everyone against there were as many for.

As stated in meeting on Sunday, the ramp is scheduled to be installed this week. Wishing and praying for Demo permit by end of month.

Please stand by and I will update y'all each month.

Have a Blessed day.... Dick Kirby, Elder

## TWO-CAN SUNDAY

Bring TWO cans or boxes of food for distribution through our partners Lutheran Social Services.

Breakfast items, protein sources, easy to open cans are most needed.



# Food Collection

**WHEN: SUNDAY, February 14, 2 - 3 pm**

**In the front parking lot.  
WAVE when you go by!**



Many thanks to all who helped with kitchen remodel:  
Evelyn and Kris Shea, Brad and Lori Copeland, Carla Carrasco and Ray, Ann  
Laudermilk, Jeff and Laurie Ludwig, Laura Medrano, Chris Nettles

Thanks to Dick Kirby for oversight of the ramp installation.

THANK YOU to our musicians who keep things fresh for worship each Sunday.

Blessings and thanks to MagPres congregation for finishing strong financially for 2020.



## Scout Corner

The Troop has elected new leaders for the next 6 month period. Gabe Fernandez will be the new Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). His 2 Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders will be Alan Foronda and Travis Kissam. Scribe will be Patrick Russel and Mark Hardy will be Historian. Many thanks to our outgoing SPL for his leadership through the pandemic period and meeting migration to Zoom meetings. There were some adult leadership changes also. Allison George with years of participation at the Troop and District levels has become the Scoutmaster and adult leader of Troop activities. Brian Kissam, our Advancement Chair, will also assume the responsibilities of Troop Committee Chair and coordinate adult support for the scout activities (fundraising, transportation to & from Scout activities, etc...). Brian had a bout with Covid-19 lasting 2 weeks in January and we are glad to have him and his leadership back with us.

Tim Lewis  
Charter Organization Representative

# February 2021 Prayer Calendar

February 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Feb 1 Liberty and Andi Mabena; Precious, Lex	2 Jody Macdonald	3 Lisa and Craig MacDougall	4 Dennis Mackey	5 Peter and Michelle Manley; Gavin, Allie, Gwenyth	6 Adam Martinez
7 MagPres Board of Deacons: Galatians 6:2	8 Steven and Jan McKee	9 Dorothy McLaughlin; Norah, Arlo	10 Laura Medrano	11 Bill and Ruth Megenny	12 Eleanor Miller	13 Gale Mitzer
14 Someone You Love; Someone Who Loves You: 1 John 4:19	15 Lance and Laurie Mordue	16 Monique Mowry	17 Brian and Melanie Nelson	18 Chris Nelson	19 Makenzie Nelson	20 Chris and Sherry Nettles
21 MagPres Co-Pastors and Their Families:1 Thessalonians 5:16-18	22 Zach Ni	23 Jason and Katie Nicholson; Addison, Destiny	24 Janet Nicks	25 Judy O'Bier	26 Lila Odell	27 John and Jane Peden
28 MagPres Music Staff: Psalm 100						

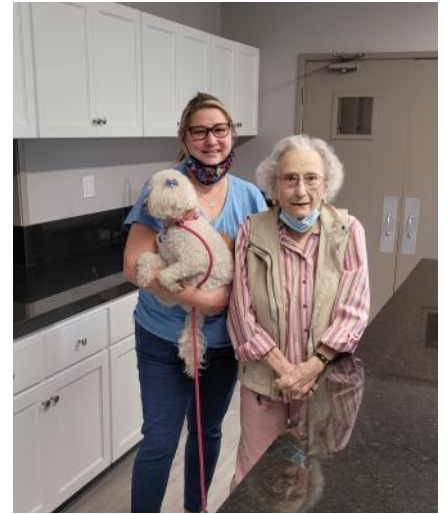
church@magpres.com

## Major Church Kitchen Face-lift

Thank to the generosity of long-time member Evelyn Shea, the Church kitchen has undergone a major face-lift. The last time the kitchen went through major changes was back 52 years ago. In recent years the refrigerator, freezer and stoves were replaced. Now, the kitchen has a whole new, fresh look. Here are some of the improvements made possible through Evelyn's kindness:

- ⊗ New LED lighting making the kitchen brighter and more energy efficient
- ⊗ New switches, receptacles and faceplates
- ⊗ Relocated plumbing allowing for new sinks and faucets, including a commercial three compartment, free-standing stainless-steel sink with floor drain
- ⊗ New "black pearl" granite countertops
- ⊗ Custom cabinet redo with new doors, drawer faces, drawer boxes with full extension, ball bearing drawer slides, soft-close concealed hinges and new knobs
- ⊗ New flooring (following the removal of four layers of old linoleum) throughout (including the hallway)
- ⊗ Major drywall repairs
- ⊗ Painting throughout, including the bathrooms and hallway

Thank you, Evelyn, for your years of committed Church membership and for your daughter Kris' help in making the future look bright, especially in our historic fellowship hall!



# February Special Days

## BIRTHDAYS

<b>Sharon</b> DeLeal	February 1
<b>Janis</b> McKee	February 5
<b>Aaron</b> Gettis	February 6
<b>Julie</b> Hutchinson	February 7
<b>Paul</b> Knopf III	February 7
<b>Christian</b> Garcia	February 8
<b>John</b> Wright	February 8
<b>Canon</b> Sindaha	February 10
<b>Jean</b> Belangeri	February 15
<b>Ann</b> Laudermilk	February 15
<b>Liam</b> Rinker	February 17
<b>Abby</b> Sindaha	February 18
<b>Baylee</b> Belangeri	February 20
<b>Karrie</b> Brooks	February 21
<b>James</b> King	February 22
<b>David</b> Laudermilk	February 22
<b>Anne</b> Denham	February 23
<b>Tom</b> Hutchinson	February 23
<b>Gary</b> Belangeri	February 24
<b>Louise</b> Walker	February 25

<b>Claudia</b> King	February 25
<b>Anna</b> Brandenberger	February 26
<b>Catelyn</b> Garcia	February 26
<b>Sonia</b> Campos	February 28
<b>Alyssa</b> Timoschuk	February 29

## ANNIVERSARIES

Chuck and Delores <b>Tobin</b>	February 7
Richard and Jeanne <b>Hood</b>	February 14



PICTORIAL Scavenger Hunt  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE  
Fellowship, Outreach, and  
Membership (FOM)  
Committee



Have fun, be creative, get outside!

Send your pictures in a folder to [hdickenson61@gmail.com](mailto:hdickenson61@gmail.com) .

The pictures will be published in February on the church Facebook page for all to admire.

A trampoline  
A fruit tree  
A little free library  
A (porch) swing  
A bicycle  
A wagon  
A heart  
A butterfly  
A raincross  
A colored door  
Something with a pattern  
A selfie  
Something with paws  
A Cereal box  
A painted mailbox  
A birdhouse  
A garden flag  
A basketball hoop  
Flowers  
Balloons

Something chocolate  
A fire hydrant  
A boat or rv  
Newspaper or magazine  
A street sign

Something red  
Tissue box  
A game  
3 left shoes  
A Valentine  
A gate  
A colored car, truck or van  
A train  
Sports team item  
Something round  
A Cross  
A (painted) rock  
Something with buttons  
A bus  
A hat



**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  
Closed Friday

**February 2021**



**A Merry Heart...**

**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

[vacant] Youth Leader

AJ Belangeri  
Interim Media/Audio Coordinator

Diana Lewis  
Administrative Assistant



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