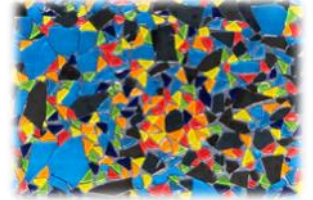


Magnolia Presbyterian Church

UpLook

May 2020



Pastor's Pondering



It has been over a month now that we have been given safer-at-home guidelines or, as many of us have been referring to it, in quarantine. Your church leaders and staff have been committed to two things over this last month: 1) providing meaningful worship experiences and 2) caring for you in the midst of this pandemic. I want to offer my thoughts about the first priority: providing a meaningful worship experience.

One of the principles that informs how I plan worship comes from Leonard Sweet in his book, *Post-Modern Pilgrims: First Century Passion for the 21st Century World*. Sweet uses the acronym EPIC to describe a model of doing church: **E**xperiential, **P**articipatory, **I**mage-driven, and **C**onnective. When we are gathered together in person for worship, I have a pretty clear picture of how to make our worship experiences EPIC. But now that we are online only, this "clear picture" has become slightly opaque. To make the most out of our worship experiences online, I offer the following suggestions (adapted from an article by Scott Shepherd, posted at: <https://baptistandreflector.org/how-to-worship-online-suggestions-for-church-members/>):

Prepare. Take time to prepare the space where you and your household will gather for worship. Make sure everyone has a good view and that you are able to connect via our website (magpres.com/watch) or our Facebook page ([facebook.com/magpres](https://www.facebook.com/magpres)).

Focus. Give attention to the online service—just as you try to do in a normal church worship gathering. (Try not to surf Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. Don't use the time to make your shopping list. Use the bathroom before the service starts.) Be present.

Read. Bring your Bible, whether you use a print or digital version. When the Scriptures are read, read and follow along (even though the scripture text is available on the screen).

Write/Draw. Staying focused during a 15-minute *live* sermon can be difficult. Being attentive while you watch online can be even harder. Find ways to engage physically, even during the sermon. Take notes, draw pictures about the Scripture passage and the sermon. Invite children to do the same. Be creative!

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PHOTOS WANTED for Mother's Day Worship.

Send a photo of your mom, you as a mom, someone like a mom to church@magpres.com by MAY 6.



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SERMON SERIES

April 19 - May 24: *Prayerful Practices*

Deacon's Corner

You have all heard the slogans, especially “We are all in this together” or “Stay home, save lives.” As upbeat as they are meant to be, they have begun to sound hollow or like a never-ending echo.

You and I however have a courage that is deeply rooted in prayer and faith, not media-driven slogans.

As Christians we can cast our cares and fear on God, who will give us the strength to get through these tough times.

Romans 5:2-4 -- **“STAY STRONG AND SAFE IN YOUR FAITH.”**

Everal Hathaway, Deacon

WHAT'S ONLINE -- www.magpres.com

- kids activities
- a link to the directory, Facebook, prayers
 - Zoom info, and worship services

Watch our services live on www.magpres.com/watch and access our archive of services.

Listen to recent sermons at magpres.com/sermons

EVERY SUNDAY: Join the Zoom Community | Prayer | Group
@ 12:30pm

[https://zoom.us/j/259885602?](https://zoom.us/j/259885602?pwd=VUJQMxROSzZ3My91amMyaGpQQk9QQT09)
[pwd=VUJQMxROSzZ3My91amMyaGpQQk9QQT09](https://zoom.us/j/259885602?pwd=VUJQMxROSzZ3My91amMyaGpQQk9QQT09)

IT'S EASY!! But if you run into a problem or have a question, contact Deanna Cohen: dncohen@hotmail.com or (951) 295-0787

*Pray
with us
from*
H**ME**

Family Promise

Is not meeting at the church this month - their work goes on!

You can still pray - You can still donate !

Visit them at www.facebook.com/familypromiseriverside

Youth Group will not meet in its regular fashion -
But you can participate in enrichment activities at
<https://www.magpres.com/students.html>

**YOUTH
GROUP**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



By the time you receive this Uplook, your Session will have held two Called Meetings and two Stated Session meetings via Zoom virtual meeting format. This has been a pretty smooth transition for most, even for those of us in the more technically-challenged genre. These meetings follow Robert's Rules of Order and Presbytery's important principle of the opportunity for "simultaneous aural communication between all participating members." In other words, Session members need to be able to hear everyone else and have opportunities to discuss motions and ideas before voting.

Some of the items discussed/voted upon have been:

- ✦ Transition to on-line blended worship with music staff involved
- ✦ Setting up of on-line giving
- ✦ Compensate all employees on their average work-week salary
- ✦ Communication with tenants using our campus; waiving rent for a month for some
- ✦ Asking Deacons not to meet in person
- ✦ Pairing an Elder with a Deacon to double calls to flocks
- ✦ Approval of virtual prayer/ support groups following on-line Sunday services
- ✦ Approval of virtual Communion on Maundy Thursday
- ✦ Designation of Elder Dick Kirby to be on-site construction manager for the sanctuary re-build
- ✦ Adjustments to Financial Secretaries on-site duties
- ✦ Continuance of sack-lunch feeding program if volunteers agree to be involved

Some of these decisions have been harder than others and there may be more needed to be made at future meetings, yet Elders are careful to listen as they make decisions and continue to show grace and patience and love.

"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." James 1:19

Melanie Nelson, Clerk of Session

P.S. ...has anyone else thought how handy that "mute" button (like the one on Zoom) would be during your day at home...?

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.

*Adjustments made for holidays.



Minister's Musing

Today a memory popped up on my Facebook feed, "3 years ago today..." Yep it's been three years since Paul and I were installed as Co-Pastors at MagPres. I mentioned to him this morning that sometimes it

seems like we have done 20 years of ministry in these 3 short years. Who would have thought three years ago we would have had to maneuver a Sanctuary catching fire and a global pandemic! And while these have certainly been challenging situations, I am also reflecting on the joys and highlights of our ministry as Co-Pastors like leading worship together, brainstorming new ideas, opening up our church to be more inclusive, our 9 months leading the Youth Group and going to camp with them, going down a massive waterslide for a bribe to raise money for mission, accompanying youth to Triennium, practical jokes, and all the other crazy things Pastor Paul ropes me into.

You all have been there right alongside us with your energy, imagination, and love, being

open to trying new ways of doing things like the Session going through "Rooted" and exploring a new "groups" model for the church, starting video worship and now online worship. We restored our stained-glass windows in the worship center just in time to use it once again as a full-time worship space and it even has new chairs, flooring, AC and decent heat now! We have ended each of these 3 years in the black financially, spearheaded Family Promise of Riverside, and opened up our campus to Milestones Preschool and EEEAC, a Hispanic congregation.

What will the next 3 years bring? Who knows? My hope is that we will have a new Sanctuary, new members, deeper faith, and a fuller knowledge and understanding of who God is in each of our lives, and what God is calling us to be and do here at MagPres. I am grateful beyond words for Pastor Paul and for each one of you and your partnership in the Kingdom of God. May God continue to bless each one of you.

Pastor Claire

Pastor Paul continued

Sing. When the hymns and worship songs are sung, sing loud and proud. Sing loud enough that your neighbors will hear and wonder what you are doing. It could be an opportunity for evangelism.

Pray. Echo the prayers offered online worship leaders, including the unison prayers with words available on the screen. Pray a prayer as a household before the service starts. Pray again after the service ends.

Move. Worship is more engaging when we use the bodies God has given us. Don't be afraid to engage in the biblical actions of physical worship. Clap, raise your hands, stand up, sit down, bow down...or dance! Whatever it takes to stay engaged! No one will see you anyway.

Give. Giving tithes and offerings is an important act of worship...even when we can't pass the offering plate. Consider giving prior to, during, or

following the online worship experience. You can give online at magpres.com/give. You can also give through your bank's bill pay service. And you can always mail in a physical check to the office (Magnolia Presbyterian Church, 7200 Magnolia Ave. Riverside, CA 92504).

Debrief. After the service is over, take a few minutes to discuss the service. What did God reveal to each household member through the service? What are some adjustments can you make for the next online worship experience to make it more meaningful?

Worshiping online has been different, but we can still make it EPIC. Consider using these suggestions above as we worship together moving forward!

**Your EPIC Co-Pastor,
Paul**

NEWS ABOUT MISSION and OUTREACH

Crop Hunger Walk March 15, 2020

Luke 10:27 "...Love your neighbor as yourself."

Congratulations to Magnolia Presbyterian Church donors, sponsors, and walkers for raising \$3,050 for this year's CROP Hunger Walk. Yes, we came in first place again and had the most walkers(19) on March 15th after church. This year we walked around the neighborhood of Magnolia Presbyterian Church, led by Cherylyn Thornton who kept us informed about our neighborhood growth. It was a time to celebrate what our church can do when we come together to help others in need.

The total funds raised this year by all the participating churches in Riverside was \$13,210. Of that 25% goes to our local organizations that focus primarily on feeding and care of those in need in Riverside. While 75% of your support will go towards families in 55 countries, including the U.S., that work to overcome hunger, poverty, disaster, and displacement.

Mathew 5:16

...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Thank you again for all you time, help, & support. Carol Young

Two-Can Sunday a Great Success!!

Sunday, April 26 -- 203 items were donated

Sunday, May 3 -- another collection - reporting next month.

Food items fill up the pantry at Lutheran Social Services. There is always a need, and there will be a way for you to contribute - so shop however you can and pick up some items (protein, breakfast foods, peanut butter, meat) for the future.

One Great Hour of Sharing

As of the Uplook Publication date, \$1100 was collected. For Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - for programs to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

THANK YOU TO

- ✝ Tim Lewis for spraying weeds in the big parking lot.
- ✝ Gary Welman, Dave and Claudia King, Dick Kirby, John Peden, Pastor Claire and Pastor Paul for assisting with the Two Can drive thru.
- ✝ James Walters, Cynthia Wright, John Wright, Saw Shein for music leadership via video worship
- ✝ Ann Laudermilk for coordinating the painting the exterior of the Fellowship Hall (scheduled for two weeks beginning May 4).

MAY

Birthdays

David King, May 1
Marjorie Ludwig, May 1
Jo Ann Alford, May 2
Melissa Holden, May 2
Loretta Ward, May 2
Dorothy McLaughlin, May 10
Tessa Islas, May 11
Janet Field, May 13
Cole Gettis, May 14
Mark Brooks, May 15
Caitlin Keovilay, May 17

Sarah Ward, May 17
Olive Watson, May 17
Krista Zwart, May 17
Konrad Reidman, May 18
Donna Crossen, May 19
Judy 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

King, David and Claudia — May 5
Richards, Dave and Sandy - May 25
Welman, Gary & Linda — May 28
Crowley, David & Margy — May 30



Graduates and Virtual Graduates

CALLING ALL GRADS!

Whatever your graduation status is, please send in a photo of yourself and description of your accomplishments - we'll publish them next month.

Position Open

Our Youth Leader job opening is online at <https://www.churchjobs.net/jobs/openings/youth-leader-in-riverside-ca-10034/>

and also at <https://www.indeedjobs.com/magnolia-presbyterian-church/jobs/84b67c09320852ddcde1>

Or call the church office for the link!



May 2020

May 2020							June 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
31							28	29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
3 Give thanks for SCRIPTURE: https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu	4 Gale Teunnisen	5 Thomas and Cherylyn Thornton	6 Chuck and Delores Tobin	7 Chris Tolleson	8 Alma Vierich	9 James and Susan Walters
10 Pray for God's protection: As a mother hen gathers her chicks, so the	11 Alene Ward	12 Ray and Loretta Ward	13 Margie Watson	14 Olive Watson	15 John Wayne	16 Gary and Linda Welman
17 Search the SCRIPTURES: www.biblegateway.com	18 Bev and King Williams	19 Kit and Dee Wilson	20 John and Cynthia Wright	21 Brenda Wynsma; Lucas Wynsma	22 Carol Young	23 Gail Zwart and Dan Skipper
24 Read and Meditate on the SCRIPTURES: Our Daily Bread - www.odlb.org	25 Lance and JoAnn Alford	26 Janelle and Jeremy Anderson; AJ, Joey	27 Ken Anderson	28 Wayne and Kristina Andrew	29 Ruth Baker	30 Gary and Jeannie Belangeri
31	Jun 1	2	3	4	5	6



Prayer Calendar

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



May 2020

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

Tessa Islas
Interim Youth Leader

AJ Belangeri
Interim Media/Audio Coordinator

Diana Lewis
Administrative Assistant



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