

Mission Statement: Magnolia strives to share God's love with all and grow spiritually in relationship with Jesus Christ and each other.

### Mission Giving During Advent

Once again as we make preparations for the coming of our Lord and Savior during the Advent season, we will be distributing our red and green banks to the children of our church.



You can participate with or without children in using our Advent Calendar which will daily remind us of our blessings, our gifts and our challenges in the world today.



This year **Heifer International** will be the recipient of our collections. This year consider giving a gift that truly blesses not just those that receive but will

enhance your Christmas experience. Maybe it's a flock of chicks, a goat or even a heifer itself. **Collectively we'd like to give an entire ARK of animals.**

Find out how during our holiday season or contact one of our **Mission Committee** members – Chris Nettles, Flora Livingstone, Jay Nicholson, Donna Crossen or Brian Nelson.

### What's Happening at MagPres

#### Fri., Dec. 1—Hanging of the Greens at 6 pm

It's a fun and quick process to beautify the sanctuary for Advent. (pizza provided)

#### Sat., Dec. 2—PrimeTime Potluck at Evelyn Shea's, 11:30 am

#### Sun., Dec. 3—Congregational Meeting at 10 am

Please join us between services for the second Stated Meeting of the Congregation. Purpose: to elect the new class of Ruling Elders and Deacons, attain congregational approval for the 2018 Terms of Call for the Co-Pastors, and to review the draft 2018 budget.

#### Sat., Dec. 9—Progressive Dinner—SIGN UP on the patio.

- ◇ Begin at 5 pm with appetizers at the home of Brian and Melanie Nelson.
- ◇ Continue to host homes for dinner.
- ◇ End with dessert at the home of the Teunissens.

#### Sun., Dec. 10—last day to bring Deacon Food Boxes

#### Sun., Dec. 17—CAROLING!

- 5 pm: Youth are serving a soup supper
- 6 pm: Caroling around the neighborhood (you don't have to be a good singer)
- 7 pm: Bring a scrumptious dessert to end the evening



#### Sun., Dec. 24: Unity Service at 10 am

#### Sun., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship at 7pm

#### Sun., Dec. 31: Unity Service at 10 am

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



# MINISTER'S MUSINGS

## O Come, O Come Emmanuel

The day after Halloween stores were already playing Christmas songs! What is up with that? I know, I know, for some of you that is exciting. For others, like me, I want to celebrate Thanksgiving first before I start thinking about Christmas. For the church, Christmas is delayed further as in the four weeks leading up to the birth of Christ, we celebrate the season of Advent. For the early church this season was a time of time of preparation leading up to the baptism of new converts on Epiphany when the church celebrates the coming of the Magi on January 6<sup>th</sup>. By the 6<sup>th</sup> century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the “coming” they had in mind was not Christ’s first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ’s first coming at Christmas.

The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming,” which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. This year Advent begins Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, culminating on the 4th Sunday of Advent on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. During Advent, the church looks back upon Christ’s coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when he returns for his people. With all hurt going on in the world at times, this familiar Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” perfectly represents the church’s hope and prayer during the Advent season:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appears.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice!*

*Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

May this be our hope and prayer this Advent season-

*Pastor Claire*

*Information about Advent is taken from an article written by Justin Holcomb, an Episcopal priest who teaches [theology](#) at Reformed Theological Seminary and Knox Theological Seminary.*

### Youth Group meets every\* Sunday evening.

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

High School (grades 9 to 12) meets from 7 to 8:30 pm.

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.



## Deacon's Corner

Merry Christmas from your Deacons! And thanks for the gifts! You may not have saved them to put under the tree, but you have been blessing us with them all year long.

In 1 Corinthians 12:4, Paul explains, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit distributes them." You have given your gifts of generosity and support, in the form of Deacon offerings, Two Can Sunday donations, and Christmas box foods. This has allowed many materially poor, homeless, and disadvantaged people to experience God's spirit of love in a very tangible way.

Paul also says, "Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church" (1 Cor. 14:12). You have shaken our hands in friendship when we were Greeters, shared your faith with us when we served Communion, and supplied us with names of people in need of P.S.A.L.M.S. meals and prayers. These gifts have strengthened us, nurtured our church family, and brought us closer to each other.

We are told by Paul, "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit" (1 Corinthians 14:1). The Deacons have enjoyed walking alongside of you this year, getting to know you through phone calls, hospital visits, and conversations over pancakes, coffee, and donuts. You have allowed us to support you through illness and bereavement. You have been our Special Friends (including Clara Mohler, who recently turned 102 years young and continues to inspire us)! You have led us in love and shown us which gifts are most important.

Have a merry Christmas! May the gifts you receive remind you of the one who was the greatest gift of all - our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jan McKee, Deacon

### TWO-CAN SUNDAY REPORT 202 Cans Collected in November

Bring your two cans of food on **December 10**.  
All items go to support the work of Lutheran Social Services.

## ***The gift (card) that keeps on giving***

Thanks to everyone who has purchased Stater Bros scrip cards. We donated the first month's profits of \$364.50 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Since then the profit accrued from your purchases is \$372.00. This profit is deposited into the General Fund of our church.



Scrip cards are available every Sunday before the first service (in the Fellowship Hall) and between 10:00 and 11:00 in the Café Magnolia courtyard.

What an easy way to add money to our General Fund!!!! The Church receives 6% of all cards sold.

## **Men's Group meets Monday, December 11, at Marshall Lee's home.**

### **Pumpkin Patch Wrap-Up**

A BIG thank you to everyone who volunteered for the Pumpkin Patch. You helped make the Pumpkin Patch a success. We collected **\$965.45** for Path of Life Ministries. This is just one more demonstration of Magnolia's truly generous and charitable heart. —Laura Medrano

50 hygiene bags were assembled by the Monday Morning Women's Bible Study and delivered to the Alternatives to Domestic Violence shelter.



Women's Bible Study:  
Dec. 4—regular meeting  
Dec. 11—brunch offsite  
Dec. 18, 25, Jan. 1 —adjourned  
Jan. 8, 2018—returning



# A Pastor's Ponderings

Happy New Year!

As you read this, you might look at your calendar and wonder if this article is a month early, but it isn't. While the calendar year runs from January to December and often fiscal years run from July-June, the liturgical calendar runs from Advent (which begins on December 3rd this year) through Christ the King Sunday (on November 25, 2018).

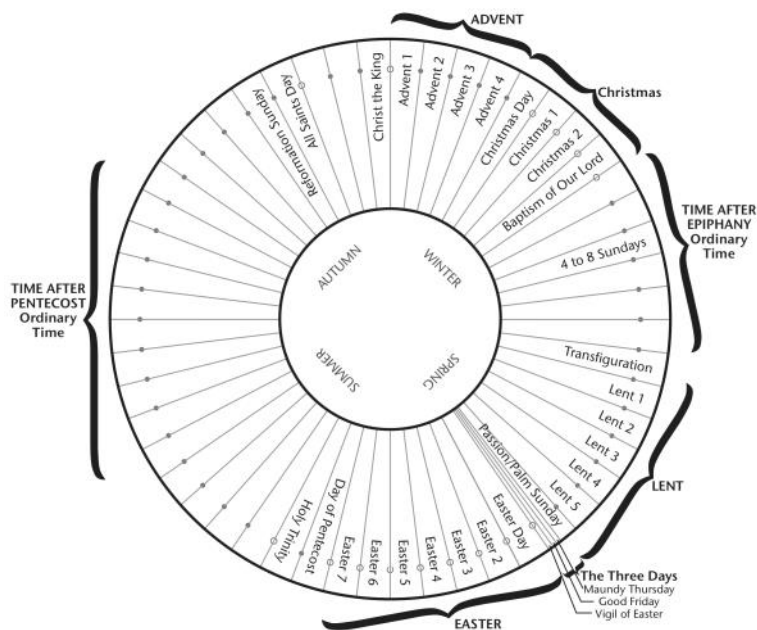
While our calendars are often filled with holidays (President's Day, 4th of July, etc.), the liturgical calendar is also filled with holy days, including Christmas, Epiphany, Transfiguration, Easter, Pentecost, Trinity, Reformation, All Saints, and Christ the King. The liturgical calendar also includes seasons:

- Advent, a season to recollect the hope of the coming of Christ, and to look forward to the Lord's coming again,
- Christmas, a celebration of the birth of Christ,
- Lent, a season of spiritual discipline and preparation, beginning with Ash Wednesday, anticipating the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ,
- Holy Week, a time of remembrance and proclamation of the atoning suffering and death of Jesus Christ,
- Easter, the day of the Lord's resurrection and the season of rejoicing which commemorates his ministry until his Ascension, and continues through
- Ordinary Time marks the season when there are no special days or seasons. Ordinary time is not a "boring time" but rather "counted time."

Why is the liturgical calendar different for the normal calendar or even a fiscal calendar? According to the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (p. 84), "The nature and fullness of God's time is so radically different from our natural and arbitrary understanding of time...The liturgical calendar gives us a glimpse of the way God's time breaks into our time." The liturgical calendar invites us to break from our normal rhythms and to sync with God's story present in Jesus Christ. It invites us to view the world through the lens of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection.

As we enter into another year, may we be molded and guided by the rhythm of God's story exhibited through the church in the liturgical calendar. Happy New Year!

Pastor Paul



*A Rich Tradition...*



**Financial Report  
2017  
“Our Year of Trust”**

**October Financial Report:**

The October 2017 Treasurer’s report indicates an income of \$309,280.28 and \$331,702.90 in expenses. The result is a current negative balance of \$-22,422.62 for the month of October. This is not good news. However, if we consider the \$15,439.17 of endowment interest and \$7,515.00 of deficit reduction funds that were budgeted to meet expected shortfalls, and the \$6,250.00 in rent income from Verizon for the cell tower, our adjusted balance for October is \$531.55.

Reminder: Per Capita (method of funding some of the essential functions of the Church both locally and nationally) for 2017 is \$35.00 per church member.

Thank you for supporting your Church’s 2017 budget with your Per Capita giving and staying current with your pledge.

**THANK YOU FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP  
COMMITTEE**

We would like to thank all of you that have made a financial pledge to support the programs of Magnolia Presbyterian Church. We have received pledge cards from 83 of our church family members with a total pledge amount of \$265,269. We have a very generous congregation. If you have not submitted a pledge for 2018, please do so as soon as possible.

**Your Stewardship Committee:**

Marshall Lee, Chair  
Ken Eberwein  
Sheryel Eberwein  
Dick Kirby  
Chris Nettles  
Jane Peden  
Phil Smith

**BLESSINGS AVAILABLE – LIMITED  
OPPORTUNITY**

Wondering how you can create that amazing feeling of being part of community care? Our meal program at Path of Life, Hulen Place is looking for one or two additional teams to participate. Twice or maybe three times a year you would **prepare and serve a meal for some very grateful people.** Where else but at the table,



can we meet one of the most basic needs. It is organized, safe and so rewarding!

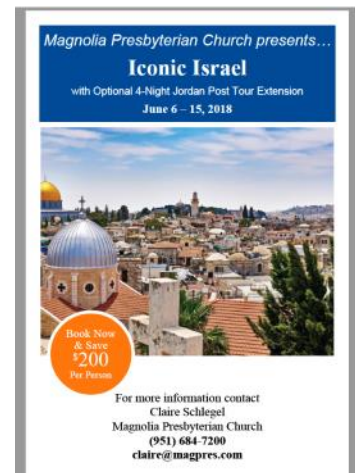
Want to try it out on one of the existing teams to see how or learn more? Speak to Jeannie Belangeri, Ann Laudermilk, Laura Medrano or Mary Lee. The blessings are unlimited.

**ICONIC ISRAEL**

June 6-15, 2018

There is still time to sign up for this travel opportunity. A 10-day trip to notable places in the Holy Land. Get your best rate AND

A GUARANTEED SPOT by booking before December 7. Contact Pastor Claire for more information.



Thank  
You

## High Five Corner

... Tom Safford for getting the front Sanctuary outside lights working.

...The Social Ministry Team and their helpers who organized and served the Thanksgiving dinner.

...Co-Pastors Claire and Paul who have been filling in as Youth Leaders until a permanent leader is found.

...James Walters for bringing the trio of musicians to our Thanksgiving concert.

...Alli Shaff for flower decorating skills.

...those who served at the Work Party.

...Bev and King Williams for hosting the Deacons dinner.

...Heather Dickenson for coordinating **NINETEEN** Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

## December Birthdays

Claire Schlegel, Dec. 7

Clara Mohler, Dec. 11

AJ Knopf, Dec. 12

Julia Marken, Dec. 12

AJ Belangeri, Dec. 19

Chris Cox, Dec. 19

Brenda Flowers, Dec. 22

Tom Thornton, Dec. 24

Paul Knopf, Dec. 25

Tavo Vega, Dec. 25

Gavin Manley, Dec. 28

Kristina Andrew, Dec. 30



## December Anniversaries

Vierich, Richard and Alma, Dec. 12

Brooks, Dan and Karrie, Dec. 19

Simmons, Roger and Susan, Dec. 19



happy anniversary

## Church Office Hours

Mon., Dec. 25: Office Closed

Tues., Dec. 26: Office Closed

Wed.—Thurs., Dec. 27-28: 9 am-noon

Mon. Dec. 25—Sat. Dec. 30: Pastor Claire and Pastor Paul will be on vacation. Pastoral coverage by Rev. Chris Nettles.

Mon. Jan 1, 2018: Office Closed

**KIDS' PRODUCE MARKET** at Madison Elementary is in need of a few good volunteers! In partnership with Feeding America, Madison Elementary distributes fresh produce to families every month. HELP is needed from 12:30 pm when the truck arrives, until 2:30, when distribution is over. COME FOR ALL or PART of the time and contribute to our local community.

### **Friday, December 8**

Madison Elementary, just around the corner at 3635 Madison. Check in at the front office and bring your ID.

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."*  
Luke 2: 10-11



At the last Session meeting, Pastor Paul invited Elders to think about and share what they thought have been “wins” for Magnolia in his five months here. The Elders were quick to offer these: a thriving youth group, the response of Magnolia to the Care Portal needs, positive changes to the first service, the homeless issue on our campus is under control, able to dissolve the Co-Pastor Nominating Committee, personnel policies being reviewed and updated, and unique fundraising ideas presented. There is a lot more to accomplish and to this end, an ad-hoc committee is being formed to explore what is working at other churches, how their committees are structured, and which practices work best for them and if any of those practices could be a positive direction for Magnolia. Creating an identity for Session and then implementing that identity is also a high priority.

As we arrive at this busy season, it is hoped you will take some time to think about the “wins” you feel Magnolia has had.

*Merry Christmas!*

*Melanie Nelson, Clerk of Session*

## Session Meetings and Minutes

As a reminder, 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 to listen to the conversation, you are most welcome. Copies of all session minutes are also available in the office, or by email request.

## CELL TOWER UPDATE

Kudos to Tom Safford, MPC’s project leader for the new cell tower. The tower is up and working, new grass is growing and our cell phones are not dropping calls any more!! AND, the tower lease payments will contribute about \$20,000 to Magnolia’s budget!!

The Magnolia Buildings and Grounds (BaG) committee has had several inquiries regarding the safety of the cell tower... specifically is there a health (cancer) risk ?

Of course, Verizon’s position is that they are safe, so I went to the American Cancer Society’s website to get their view. The Society states “that there is **very** little evidence to support the idea” that “living or working near a cell phone tower might increase the risk of cancer or other health problems”. They cite the low energy levels of a cell tower’s RF (radio frequency) waves compared



to the types of radiation that create cancer risk, like gamma rays, x-rays, and ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun. In addition, the *long* wavelengths of RF waves are unlikely to affect the individual cells in our bodies like *short* wavelength cancer-causing radiation does. Finally, since the tower antennae typically are 200 feet high, the level of RF waves at ground level is very low—well below recommended limits.

Soooo, if you have concerns about cell towers, you’d be better off giving up your cell phone! The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) notes that a hand-held cell phone device exposes your brain to 100 times more RF radiation than exposure to RF fields from cell towers.

God Bless You, and we hope this answers some of your questions about cell tower health risks.

John Reinhardt – of the MPC BaG Committee

**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



*December 2017*

**Staff**

Rev. Claire Schlegel,  
Co-Pastor

Rev. Paul Knopf,  
Co-Pastor

James Walters,  
Music Director/Organist

John Wright, Choral Director

Cynthia Wright, Pianist

Tavo Vega,  
Contemporary Service Music  
Leader

Allison Robinson  
Nursery Attendant

Interim Media/Audio Coordinator  
AJ Belangeri

Diana Lewis  
Administrative Assistant

***A merry heart does good ...***

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12-14-2012

I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO  
BRIGHT THIS YEAR





# 2017

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 www.magpres.com  
 Email: church@magpres.com

*A Rich Tradition...A Bright Future*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
* = Communion is Served ** = Sunday School for Preschool-5th (CE#7)					<b>1</b> Office Closed  6 pm Hanging of the Greens	<b>2</b> 11:30-3 PrimeTime (Shea)
<b>3</b> 9 am Worship Service* (FH) with S.S.** 10 am Called Congregational Meeting 11 am Worship Service* (S) with S.S.** 5 pm-6 pm Middle School Youth (YR) 6 pm-7 pm Shared Meal (YR) 7 pm-8:30 pm High School Youth (YR)	<b>4</b> 9:30 am, Women's Bible Study (CE)  1-2:30 pm, Tai Chi (FH)	<b>5</b> •6 pm Committees Potluck •Followed by Committee Meetings: Christian Ed. / MEW / Mission / Bldgs & Grounds	<b>6</b> 1-2:30 pm, Tai Chi (FH)	<b>7</b> 6:00 Handbell Choir (CR) 7:00 Choir (CR)	<b>8</b> Office Closed  12:30 pm, Kids' Produce Market (Madison Elem)	<b>9</b> •Sack Lunch prep and serving •Hulen Place dinner served •5pm Progressive Dinner
<b>10 Two-Can Sunday</b> 9 am Worship Service (FH) with S.S.** 11 am Worship Service (S) with S.S.** Redlands Adventist Academy bring music. 5 pm-6:30 pm Middle School Youth (YR) 7 pm-8:30 pm High School Youth (YR)	<b>11</b> 9:30 am, Women's Bible Study Brunch (Offsite) 1-2:30 pm, Tai Chi (FH)  7 pm Men's Group, Host: Brian Nelson	<b>12</b> 7 pm Stewardship Comm.  7 pm Elders Training	<b>13</b> 1-2:30 pm, Tai Chi (FH)	<b>14</b> 6:00 Handbell Choir (CR) 7:00 Choir (CR)	<b>15</b> Office Closed	<b>16</b> 9 am Deacons Meeting  10:30 Deacons Training
<b>17</b> 9 am Worship Service (FH) with S.S.** 11 am Worship Service (S) with S.S.** Children's Choir bringing music both services All-Church Caroling Event: 5 pm Soup Supper - 6 pm Caroling-7 pm Dessert Fest Youth Group: Participating with All-Church Event	<b>18</b> 9:30 am, Women's Bible Study (CE)  1-2:30 pm, Tai Chi (FH)	<b>19</b> 7:00 Session Meeting (L)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:00 Handbell Choir (CR) 7:00 Choir (CR)	<b>22</b> Office Closed	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10 am Worship Service (S) with S.S.**  7 pm Christmas Eve Service Youth Group: Participating with Worship	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas  Office Closed	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10 am Worship Service (S) with S.S.**  Youth Group (HS) Overnighter	<b>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</b> <b>Monday-Thursday</b> <b>8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</b>		<b>Location Legend:</b> <b>CE = Christian Education Building</b> <b>PPaul = Pastor Paul's Office</b> <b>L = Library</b> <b>CR = Choir Room</b>		<b>FH = Fellowship Hall</b>  <b>S = Sanctuary</b> <b>YR = Youth Room (CE)</b>	

# MagPres Prayer Calendar

## December 2017

December 2017							January 2018						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1 Jeff and Laurie Ludwig	2 Marge Ludwig
3 Membership, Evangelism and Worship Committee	4 Liberty and Andi Mabena	5 Jody Macdonald	6 Lisa and Craig MacDougall	7 Peter and Michelle Manley	8 Julia Marken	9 Adam Martinez
10 Buildings and Grounds Committee	11 Steve and Jan McKee	12 Laura Medrano	13 Bill and Ruth Megenny	14 Eleanor Miller	15 Clara Mohler	16 Marilyn Nail
17 Christian Education Committee	18 Brian and Melanie Nelson	19 Earl Nelson	20 Chris and Sherry Nettles	21 Jay and Katie Nicholson	22 Janet Nicks	23 Judy O'Bier
24 Stewardship Committee	25 Lila Odell	26 John and Jane Peden	27 Ron and Cornelia Phifer	28 Susie Phillips	29 Harold and Nancy Poor	30 Doug and Thea Reed
31 Mission Interpretation Committee	Jan 1, 18	2	3	4	5	6

**Pray for the groups and individuals listed each day.**