Magnolia Presbyterian Church
The UpLook

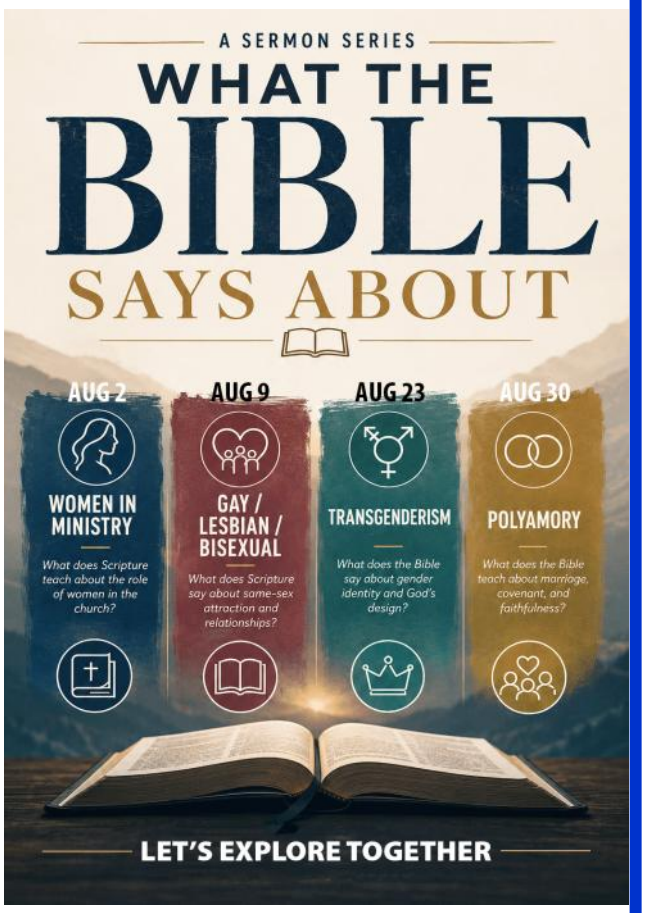
SUMMER 2026

WORSHIP SERVICE ~ Sundays @ 10:00am - in person and online
COMMUNION & DEACON OFFERING ~ 1st Sunday of the month
TWO-CAN SUNDAY ~ June 14th - Food donations collected for LSS Pantry
SUMMER MEET-UP'S ~ Thursday's @2:30pm through Aug. 6th
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ July 13-16th, 6-7:30pm, All Ages Welcome!

A PASTORS PONDERING

Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect. ~ 1 Peter 3:15 (NRSVue)

The Church has been in the news this summer:
-The Southern Baptist Convention took steps to amend their constitution to ban churches that have women pastors or let women preach on Sunday mornings
-The Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, will take action on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity
-The Presbyterian Church (USA), our denomination, is voting on whether to require that its pastors, if in a relationship, be monogamous (polygamy is outlawed in the US, but polyamorous relationships are not)



There has been vigorous debate and a plethora of discussions online about each of these topics. Inevitably, a question gets asked in each of these discussions: what does scripture say on each of these topics? Do you know what scripture says about women in ministry, or gay/lesbian/bisexual relationships, transgender individuals, or polyamorous relationships. We'll explore these topics, specifically what scripture says about each of them, during our Sunday morning services in August.

In addition to exploring these topics during worship in August, I plan to provide a forum after worship to continue the discussion, receive feedback, and explore additional questions and considerations. I am also working toward offering a mid-week reflection/podcast based on reflections received in the forums. I think these are important topics and want to provide space for us to explore them.

Are you interested in these topics? Do you have friends or neighbors who might be talking about this? Know people who are looking for opportunities to have discussions around these topics? Invite them to worship with us in August.

Your "curious what scripture says" pastor, Paul

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Did you know…

⇒**Minutes from all Session and Congregational meetings are available in the office after final approval**

⇒**Session meetings are open to all Magnolia members (4th Tuesday of every month, except July, at 6:30 pm, in person in the church library or via Zoom)**

⇒**Minutes of committees are also available in the office, including Treasurer's Reports**

⇒**Copies of Annual Reports; Annual General Assembly Statistical Reports; and Annual Presbytery Reports are available in the office or by contacting your Clerk of Session**

⇒**Any Session member can answer (or find the answer) to your questions**

Melanie Nelson - Clerk of Session

MAGNOLIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - TREASURER'S REPORT
"ABUNDANT LIFE"
General Fund - 05/31/26

	May	Ytd
Balance		
2026 Income	**$29,784**	**$ 186,598**
2026 Expense	**$33,950**	**$ 146,845**
Surplus/(deficit)*	**$ (4,166)**	**$ 39,754**

A surplus in simple terms means we realized more income than we had in expense. A deficit would indicate we spent more money than we recognized as income.

Upon review of the May operating results, (a deficit of $4k), it has been determined that the variation from what was expected is a blend due to an increase in expenses and a decrease in giving.

1 - Overall expenses were unfavorable to budget by $1k.
2 - Pledged giving was $2.3k less than the budget.

God is Good - All the time!
Jeff Ludwig
Treasurer - Magpres

From Your Mission Committee…

School's out—but hunger, thirst, and instability don't take a summer break. As the kids take a break from school schedules and you plan for summertime activities, would you perhaps consider working in a fun activity that includes giving to something that can make a difference in another child's life? It doesn't have to be an expensive grand gesture, it can be as simple as deciding to collect recyclables and donate the redemption proceeds to your favorite charity, take the kids to a donate their outgrown clothes and toys, or make a meal as a family to donate to the Family Promise Shelter one night this summer.

It only takes a few minutes to consider what your giving plans could include this summer, **t**he options are endless, and the love in the lesson is free.

Give the Gift of Water!

"The Presbyterian Giving Catalog offers ways to support the causes closest to your heart - view the catalog at presbyteriangifts.org".

HIGH SCHOOL GRADS:

Lydia (LJ) Bowman

Caitlyn Cohen

Sydney Smith

SEMINARY:

Eric Brandenberger

LYDIA (LJ) BOWMAN *graduated with Dual Outstanding Puente Sr. Summa Cum Laude with 4.0 all 4yrs, Dual Scholar Performer of the year Choir/Theater, Seal of Biliteracy, Golden State Merit Diploma, Double Letter in Choir & Theater. She will be attending RCC and pursuing Culinary Arts. LJ is currently helping make the MagPres Summer Meet-Ups a funtastic event!*

CAITLYN COHEN *graduated Summa Cum Laude with highest honors from John W. North High School with her Seal of Biliteracy. She will be attending UCLA to study Neuroscience in the fall.*

SYDNEY SMITH *graduated from Poly High School. This fall she will be attending the University of Oregon, where she plans to major in Political Science with the goal of eventually attending law school. We are incredibly proud of her and excited to see what this next chapter brings. "We love you NeNe and we are so proud of you" Mom, Dad, Grannie & PopPop*

ERIC BRANDENBERGER *graduated from Fuller Seminary on June 13, 2026. He has been assisting First Corona Presbyterian Church during their interim period.*

DEACONS DESK...

I recently attended the Celebration of Life of a good friend. We all thought we knew this person well, but as each representative from a different time of his life spoke, we realized that the lives he touched was much farther reaching than we ever knew.

When a career in dentistry and owning his own practice did not fulfill, and when teaching dentistry to UCLA students did not fulfill, he turned to teaching. He obtained a credential and began teaching Biology at a local high school. He told friends and family that students attending UCLA were likely to be successful no matter what, but students at the high school where he planned to teach needed him. And they really did.

Every person who spoke told of how they felt seen and accepted. They felt valued and loved. "It was never about him. He always made it about us, like we were the most important person in the room."

What a gift to give another human being. To see them, to value and love them, and accept them for who they are. This is how our friend was, and I imagine that this is how it is in the presence of Jesus.

Lisa MacDougall

JOIN US FOR UPCOMING FOM SUMMER EVENTS....

JULY 22nd: Imaginarium360, Wizard of Oz light show & circus - evening event in Ontario

AUG 9th: Lunch and Learn- The Copeland's share about their trip to India after Worship

REDLANDS BOWL: Free Friday Night Summer Music Concerts - Contact Laura Medrano or Heather Dickenson to coordinate and meet the group for a fun summer outing.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

For children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade is offered In-Person and via Zoom during our 10:00am. worship service. In-person children will meet in Rm 8 and Nursery in Rm 9 at 10:20am. To join the fun via Zoom simply sign in to Zoom and use the Meeting ID: 259885602 and the Password 7200.
Sunday School includes: Bible lessons, Songs, crafts, and play time.

JULY MEMORY VERSE: Psalms 70: 4

But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you, and let those who love your saving help say again and again: "God is great!"

SHORTENED PASSAGE:

"God is great!"

REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

CHILDREN / YOUTH PERMISSION FORMS
Do you have a child/youth? We are accepting updated Student Permission forms for the 2026-2027 school year. To download a form please visit www.magpres.com/permission
Contact Michelle Knopf or Jason Robinson if you have any questions

CHOIR PRACTICE: Meets Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the choir room

SCOUT TROOP 16: Meets Monday nights at 6:45pm in the Fireside Room. Our Charter Organization Rep is Tim Lewis (webelewis@gmail.com).

YOUTH GROUP: meets on Sunday from 11:30-1:30 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 559885602 Password:7200**

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!)*

STANDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Keep up the good work as we continue loving our neighbors who are hungry!

STATER BROS. GIFT CARDS: Gift cards in the amounts of $25, $50, and $100 are available to purchase in the church office. Monday - Thursday, 9:00am - 3:00pm (closed 12-1pm). 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" (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 neighbor.

Magnolia presbyterian church

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

...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
Worship Service 10am Sun.
Church Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 9:00am-3:00pm
Closed 12-1pm Lunch
Closed Friday

Magnolia Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Paul Knopf
Pastor

Lisa Gulino
Administrative Assistant

John Wright
Minister of Music

Cynthia Wright
Pianist/Accompanist

Allison Robinson
Nursery Attendant

Michelle Knopf
CE Leader

Jaeson Robinson
Youth Leader

SUNDAY ~ JULY 12th

Every 2nd Sunday of the month MagPres collects non-perishable food donations for Lutheran Social Services local food distribution.

We donated 207 items in June!
Thank you all for your generosity!

Donations may be dropped off during Sunday Service or during the church office hours Mon-Thur.

MAGPRES JULY 2026 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Pastor Paul Study Leave	29	30	1	2 Office Closed July 4 Holiday	3 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	4 9:30am - EEEAC
5 Camp 7/5-7/11 HS, 6-8th Gr. 10am - Communion Sunday 10am - Deacon Offering 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School	6	7 6pm - CE Cmte. 6:30pm - FOM Cmte. 7pm - BaG Cmte. 7pm - Mission Cmte.	8	9 2:30pm - Summer Meet-Up	10 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	11 9:30am - EEEAC 4pm - Path of Life Meal
12 10am - TWO-CAN Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School	13 6pm - VBS	14 4pm - Worship Cmte 6pm - VBS 7pm - Stew_Fin Cmte	15 Session Mat'ls Due 9am 6pm - VBS	16 2:30pm - Summer Meet-Up 6pm - VBS	17 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	18 9:30am - EEEAC
19 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School	20 Pastor Paul Vacation	21 7pm - Deacon Meeting	22 FOM-Imaginarium in ONT.	23 FP Panda Exp Fundraiser 2:30pm - Summer Meet-Up	24 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	25 9:30am - EEEAC
26 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School	27	28 7pm - Session Meeting	29	30 2:30pm - Summer Meet-Up	31 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	1

JULY 2026 PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 The Lee Family	2 Bob & Lee Lewis	3 Tim & Diana Lewis	4 Flora Livingstone
5 Riverside Fire Dept.	6 Adrien Lowery	7 Ann Lowry	8 Jeff & Laurie Ludwig	9 Marge Ludwig	10 Steven Lyons	11 The Mabena Family
12 Building & Grounds Committee	13 Jody Macdonald	14 Craig & Lisa MacDougall	15 Adam Martinez	16 The MacLaughlin/ Sachs Family	17 Melissa Mattz	18 Laura Medrano
19 Magnolia Presbyterian Church	20 Steve & Jan McKee	21 Larry Medina	22 Bobby & Kris Menosky	23 Lance & Laurie Mordue	24 Monique Mowry	25 The Na Family
26 Lutheran Social Services	27 The Nelson Family	28 Donna Nelson	29 The Rev. Chris & Sherry Nettles	30 Zach Ni	31 The Nicholson Family	

BIRTHDAYS

1 Ralph Burnett
3 Lydia (LJ) Bowman
4 Estella Gettis
6 Erin Gettis
6 John Zarecki
8 Cynthia Wright
13 Jean Riggs
13 Lance Mordue
14 Kris Shea
14 Rhonda Rehnke
14 Sandy Richards
19 Gail Zwart
20 Gio Holden/Campos
21 Jane Peden
22 Isabella Robinson
23 Ben Lee
24 Christopher Nelson
26 Christian Na
27 Debbie Benninger
31 William (Bill) Bingham

ANNIVERSARIES

2 Zach & Maddy Gipson
4 Craig & Lisa MacDougall
5 Candy & Bill Bowman
18 Lance & JoAnn Alford
19 Ramsey & Abby Sindaha
22 Rev. Paul & Michelle Knopf
23 Tom & Julie Hutchinson
23 James & Ann Laudermilk