

Magnolia Presbyterian Church

MAY 2021 UpLook



But now, says the LORD...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. Don't fear, I am with you. -Isaiah 43:1-2, 5

We are creatures of habit. We take the same road to work, the same route through grocery stores, and often order the same dishes at our favorite restaurants. But occasionally, our habits get disrupted. Sometimes, road construction alters our path to work. Other times, a store renovation makes our route through the grocery store impossible. And every once in a while, a shortage of a particular food makes our favorite dish unavailable. In these moments, our habits change. But we long for the familiar, comfortable patterns we've developed over time.

Over the last year, we've experienced disruption like never before. Our habits changed, and as a church, we survived. We transitioned into an online-only worship service, converted our meetings to zoom, and found a way to do ministry in the midst of a pandemic. With COVID numbers improving, a target date in the middle of June to open up California, and a return to in-person worship, we will want to return to familiar, comfortable patterns of the past. Unfortunately, the church as we knew it before the pandemic no longer exists.

Approximately 2,700 year ago, God's people experienced disruption. They were removed from their homes and taken to Babylon, into exile. Their world had changed. Recognizing the end of the exile was imminent, God's people longed to return to what they had, but God encouraged something different.

After the verses quoted above, God, through the prophet, says, "*Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?*" -Isaiah 43:18-19

The world that they knew before the exile no longer existed. They didn't know what the future would look like, but God was guiding them every step of the way.

The church we remember before the pandemic, the church we experienced five years ago, and the church you saw when you attended MagPres for the first time, those churches no longer exist.

God was with God's people many years ago, and invited them into a new way of being, not relying on previous patterns, but creating and embracing new patterns.

And God is with us, inviting us to create and embrace new patterns. And we're doing our best to be faithful, from a newly designed sanctuary to a groups model of doing church to a hybrid style of worship, we are faithfully moving into the future God has not only prepared us for, but is walking with us, every step of the way.

When the pandemic started, we offered a phrase that is still true today: "We don't know what the future holds, but we know that God holds the future."

May you be comforted by these words.

Your "exploring new patterns" co-pastor,
Paul Knopf Co-Pastor

**Youth
Group News
Page 7**

Deacon's Corner

Powerful Elements of Prayer Intercessory Prayer Forgiveness Assurance

Prayer Warriors

The most powerful and successful weapon we as Christians have is PRAYER. It brings us before God and allows us to know him and find comfort in God's presence. Through the incredible force of PRAYER, we are forgiven and in turn we forgive. Prayer has been at the heart of the time I've spent as a Deacon in 2020 and presently.

The broad scope of prayer brings opportunity to intercede for those we know and love, and those we haven't met.



THANK YOU!

for the privilege of serving you and my prayers go with you all.

Sincerely,

Everal Hathaway

Now, Here is your opportunity to share and give generously:

HFH: "A Brush with Kindness" save this date: June 26, 2021. If you are interested please contact :

Carol Young at 951-488-6122 by phone or text. My e-mail is spunkycats@verizon.net.

Please leave your name, phone number, and e-mail.

This outreach involves painting and some repairing of mobile home for either a needy veteran, widow, or retired person. HFH developed this program to give volunteers the chance to participate by giving their time and energy to those in need and to have fun interacting with one another as a team working together for God's joy and generosity.

Thanks to:

- Ann Laudermilk and the Buildings and Grounds Committee for the work party. John Reinhardt, John Wright, Gary Welman, David King, Carla Carrasco, Brenda Flowers, Tim Lewis, Mary Lee, Claudia King, Pastor Paul, Pastor Claire
- Aaron Cohen for fixing this and that around the church.
- Dick Kirby for pushing and prodding to get demo done.
- Our Contracts and Design Team for their persistence.
- The Reopening Team for keeping on top of a mighty big process.
- Brad Copeland for overseeing the continuing projects on the Fellowship Hall.
- The Financial Counters, Chris Nettles and Carla Carrasco, for learning new programs and procedures.
- The Worship Team and our Music Staff for adapting and providing outstanding music and worship experiences every Sunday.
- Gary Welman for delivering food to Lutheran Social Services (lots of lifting!).

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



As Spring begins, we see a re-opening of tulips, orange blossoms and other plants and trees that have been dormant over the winter. MagPres, too, is starting to re-open. Last month, Session approved for El Evangelo Eterno Adventist Church to once again worship in-person, in our facilities. They also approved for the Boy Scout Troop to start meeting again on campus. And, of course, starting on Easter

Sunday, Magnolia has once again begun to worship in-person. At a Called Session meeting on April 11, ... Session approved going back to an in-person indoor worship service.

On the horizon, potentially, are in-person new member classes, VBS, work parties, fellowship opportunities and mission projects.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up on meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...”

Hebrews 10:24-25

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session

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=VUJQMXROSZ3My91amMyaGpQQk9QQTo9>

Having problems with Zoom? Call the church office

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

12 - 12:30 pm [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 or by visiting our Facebook page (facebook.com/magpres). Services are archived for you to watch later (or again!)

DIRECTORY UPDATE

- 🌀 NEW directories are available in the Worship Center and the church office.
 - 🌀 OR - call the office to have one mailed to you.
 - 🌀 OR - visit www.magpres.com/people (call the office for the password).
- Always - if your address, phone, or email changes, notify church@magpres.com

A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY From your Stewardship Committee Member, Carol Young

I was born into a "culture of generosity." From birth I was surrounded by my parents, grandmother, family, and church friends who inspired, encouraged, and motivated me on a daily basis. They were living examples of generosity from the heart. My faith is very strong and continues to grow because of them, but also because "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

In 2 Corinthians: 9:6-7, the apostle Paul teaches about the joy of giving generously especially when the gift is from the heart filled with compassion. He states, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."..."for God loves a cheerful giver."

I'm a cheerful giver and often humbled, grateful, and filled with hope, faith, and love when I have the chance or opportunity to "get to give," not give to get. I'm not storing up Brownie points for the Lord, I'm thankful I can give freely.

As a young child of 8 years I took the Lord as my Savior in VBS and never looked back.

As a teenager I was active in our Presbyterian Church's Migrate Ministry Program held every Wednesday evening during the summer. We would take, food, clothing, shoes, soap, and toothbrushes as gifts to hand out. our gift of generosity was from our hearts: when interacting with the migrant children and their families through playing softball, singing songs, worshiping together, and praying. It was a win-win for joy and love of God experienced by all.

Other places I learned generosity:

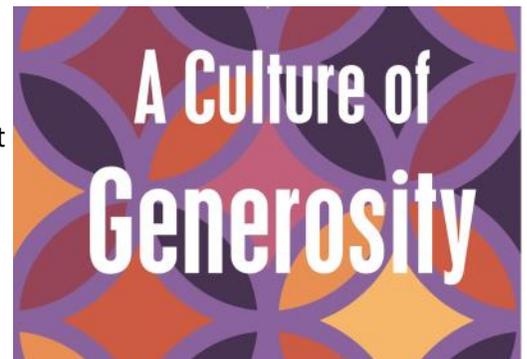
God's special gift to me is a passion for teaching, working, and playing with children.

I went on to teach children for over 40 years, mainly as a K-6 teacher, and

after I retired I went back to teaching as a reading specialist for children struggling with reading. Jeremiah 29:11-12: says, " For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I still teach and tutor part time as a volunteer. What a joy to help someone learn to read!

In 2007 I had the opportunity to join an 18 member missionary team going to South Africa to a small village called Josepha. The villagers had no running water and had to walk or get transportation to bring water to their homes. They also had very little electricity, so at night it was pitch dark. Our mission was to help build, pour, and lay cement for their community -church center and to share and spread the Lord's, faith, hope, and love with them through worship and VBS activities. as a team packed 40 duffle bags with Bibles, clothing, and VBS materials to be given out generously to all that came. One of many of the highlights was reading the parables of Christ and having the stories translated from English to their native language. I would start to read sitting on the grass in the middle of a soccer field and the children and adults would start coming first a few and before I knew it I was surrounded usually by 100-200 listeners for God's word. God was ever present throughout the entire 3 weeks we were there. We as a team were amazed and humbled at how little it took for the children and villagers to be joyful and grateful for our generosity, but our team returned totally blessed with their generosity too.

After my husband of 43 years passed, I returned to travel and help Habitat for Humanity build safe and affordable homes through the following: Alaska, New Zealand, Fiji, Mexico, Kauai, San Diego, and yes, Riverside, CA. Again it was a culture of generosity with both HFH families working and building together with our HFH teams their first home.



I hope my story will inspire you to join "A Culture of Generosity." There is an opportunity for you to put this into action very soon - Page 2 highlighting the Habitat for Humanity "BRUSH WITH KINDNESS."

With generosity and love, Carol Young



(Jo)hannah **Dickenson** graduated with honors from Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ with a Bachelors of Music Degree in Oboe Performance. She will begin pursuing a Masters degree in Oboe Performance from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA in the Fall.



Matthew **Shea** graduated Trinity University Summa Cum Laude and has completed his Master's Degree in Accounting. He was one of seven selected nationally to serve with the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) for 2022. In 2023 he will be employed by Deloitte Accounting International in Houston, Texas. Grandma Evelyn and Aunt Kris are SUPER proud of him.



Dylan **McKee** (son of Ryan and Candis McKee) is graduating from Woodcrest Christian High School. He has been accepted to California Baptist College (CBU). He is plans to study ministry and music.



Olivia **McKee** (daughter of Mike and Kathee McKee) is also graduating from Woodcrest Christian High School, and has also been accepted to California Baptist College (CBU). She plans to study law and communications.

It's exciting to see the changes going on as we begin to rebuild our church sanctuary! If any of you happen to take pictures during the demolition/construction process, and you would like to submit them to our church history file, we would love to have a copy! We will gladly accept hard copies or digital files. We always welcome any church related photos, artifacts, and memorabilia. Please contact Jan McKee for any further information, or email to janm52@aol.com. Thank you and God bless!

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 magnolia-hasearstohear@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

BIG BEAR LAKE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

Fearless Faith 2021

July 4-10:
Elementary & High School Leadership Camp

July 11-17:
Jr. High & High School Camp

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." - 2 Timothy 1:7



For more information visit www.bblccc.com
Email registration@bblccc.com





Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Stater Bros. CARDS are for sale in the office 8:30 am to 3 pm Monday - Thursday.

Buy yours in \$25, \$50, and \$100 cards and the church receives 6%!

Youth Program Starting Up
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
May 23 @ 6:30pm in-person and on zoom
--From your Christian Education Committee
Call the office to show your interest.

Office Closed Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.

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
2021

Staff

The Rev. Claire Schlegel
Co-Pastor

The 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

Jeff Ludwig
Treasurer

Diana Lewis
Administrative Assistant

A Merry Heart...



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