

# Magnolia Presbyterian Church

## UpLook July 2020



### Pastor's Pondering

*Alongside Babylon's rivers we sat on the banks; we cried and cried, remembering the good old days...*

*-Psalm 137:1 The Message*

Whenever I drive onto the church campus, it feels quiet, empty, and lacking the life I am so used to seeing on the campus. As we continue through this pandemic, with reports of increasing cases and spread of coronavirus, it is easy to feel down. As we acknowledge that things are not the way they are supposed to be, it is easy to feel sad and maybe even hopeless.

About 600 years before Christ's birth, God's people, the nation of Israel, were also sad and depressed. Their nation had been eliminated, the center of life and worship, the temple, was destroyed, and nothing was the way it was supposed to be. They had to learn new patterns of living in a world they no longer recognized. But the story doesn't end there.

While the people of Israel were in exile, they compiled ancient, sacred stories to form portions of what became our Old Testament. They composed and collected worship songs that make up our psalter. They reimagined their religious life, transitioning from a single place of worship, to synagogues. And many of the traditions associated with modern day Judaism were developed then. It was a synergistic and innovative time for the people of God.

As I sit on this campus that is lacking in noise, energy, and life, I find myself reflecting some of the feelings God's people did so long ago. At the same time, I recognize, as your session (elder board) has, that this time has potential for great synergy and innovation. Already during this exile (I guess the more accurate word is quarantine), we have painted the Worship Center (aka Fellowship Hall) due to an anonymous, gracious donation. We have transitioned to a new online giving platform (which will allow you to view and track your giving record, meaning you no longer have to call the office to see if you are on track). We are transitioning to a new church database system (which will allow you to update your information whenever you need to). And we are developing a new church app in an effort to keep you better informed and get easier access to the information you need. If that was all, that would be a lot!

In the last month, we also installed a new cloud system (thanks to another generous donation), continue to provide a quality worship experience every week, and are now in the midst of installing a new AV system in our worship space (we recognize that you all have come to expect a certain level of worshipful experience and we want to continue to provide that level of experience for those who continue to worship remotely when in-person worship becomes available).

I pray that this glimpse into some of the things that have been happening brings you encouragement and hope. Your Session, your Deacons, your committees, and your Pastors continue to work hard to care for you, our congregation, and the community around us. Some day, this pandemic will conclude. When that day arrives, may we reflect on this time with pride and as always, give glory to God.

**Your hope-full Co-Pastor,**

**Paul**

***Look inside for  
Zoom meetings***

## Deacon's Corner

### What Can Be Said?

Hello,

As your deacon, I feel that I should know exactly the right comforting words or phrases to say to you all in these uncertain times. But unfortunately, I don't.

I spent 5 years learning how to make people "better" or at least teach people how to navigate their circumstances, but I don't remember a book, chapter, or lecture on COVID 19 or any of the discord that 2020 has dealt our world thus far.

So, now what am I to do? What do I say to my daughter, my clients and/or their families when they come to me for direction because they feel like they have no control? Well, I am honest and say, "I don't know. No one knows. However, what we can do is control our response and actions in regards to what has been thrown at us".

Some of us may not agree with how others are handling the current climate and that's ok. Individually, we have to focus on what is right for ourselves, and our families, and most importantly, learn to set boundaries, be able to say "no", and be ok with our decisions regardless of pressure from others. We all need to do this in our own ways, and THAT we do control.

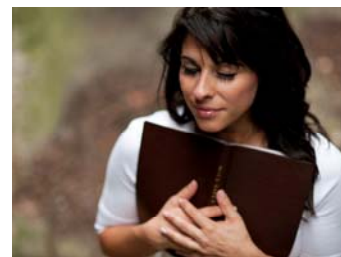
As people of faith, we know that God sees the bigger picture and is in control. We may not know the "why" of this mess our world is in but believe me, God is doing something, and we can lean on that. God looks out for you and your families, and one day we will understand, when we see Him face to face.

As we start adapting to the "new normal" please know that your Magnolia deacons are here for you. If you need someone to just talk to, someone to pick up groceries, someone to run a needed errand, or help with any of the multitude of other things you may be dealing with, please reach out.

If you do not know who your deacon is, please call the church office, or send an email and they can point you in the right direction.

I know we all miss going to the big beautiful building we call Church on Sundays, but remember, its not about the building as much as it's about who is inside that building, and that's you and me, The Church. So until we can meet again, face to face or mask to mask, I'll see you all online at magpres.com or Zoom.us every Sunday.

**Your Deacon, Robin Smith**



### ZOOM GROUPS

**Meeting ID for all Meetings**

**259 885 602 (password 7200) or use the link**

[https://zoom.us/j/259885602?](https://zoom.us/j/259885602?pwd=VUJQMXROSVZ3My91amMyaGpQQk9QQT09)

[pwd=VUJQMXROSVZ3My91amMyaGpQQk9QQT09](https://zoom.us/j/259885602?pwd=VUJQMXROSVZ3My91amMyaGpQQk9QQT09)

Having problems with Zoom? Call the church office (leave 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](#)**



a

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Patience: “the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.” Patience is a word that has been used a lot these last few months as we navigate our “new normal” and the Elders on Session are also asking for your continued patience as they:

- ◇ Begin the process of interviewing for and hiring a Youth Group Leader
- ◇ Continue to meet with the architect hired to draft plans for the Sanctuary
- ◇ Progress on the installation of the ADA ramp into Fellowship Hall
- ◇ Continue the process of nominating Magnolia members for the office of Elder and Deacon
- ◇ Provide ways to insure the budget of our church is being met
- ◇ Reach out for your support in our community mission work

And, patience for the sub-committee formed to develop a comprehensive plan of protocols detailing how California Department of Public Health guidelines would be met or exceeded, before returning to in-person worship services and gatherings on our campus.

“A man’s wisdom gives patience...” Proverbs 19:11

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.

### WHAT’S ONLINE -- [www.magpres.com](http://www.magpres.com)

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

**Watch our services** live on <https://magpres.online.church>

# YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will not meet in July or August –  
SEE you in September.

# July 2020

## Prayer Calendar

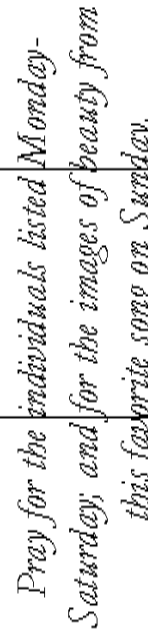
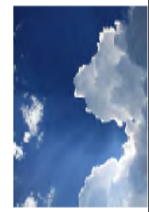



### Magnolia Presbyterian Church

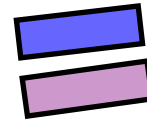
August 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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					

July 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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
			Jul 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Brenda Flowers	Aaron and Erin Gattis; Estella Cole	Zach and Maddie Gipson	Danielle Good	Holly Goulet-Perez; James, Marcus	Ilene Gradney
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Gary and Edith Grant	Kara and Suzanne Griffen	Sandra Griffith	Beverly Guidero	Everal Hatbaway	Tom and Marti Hendrix
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Betty Hillbrand	Melissa Holden; Sonia Campos; Gio Campos	Rickard and Jeanne Hood	Dave Hurlbaeus	Tom and Julie Hutchinson	Tessa Elias
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	John and Connie Jackson	Barbara Johnson	Dave and Mary Josselyn	Kay and Caitlin Keovily	David and Claudia King	



**TWO CAN SUNDAY IS ALIVE AND WELL with something extra this month.**

Bring two cans (or boxes) of food (per person in your household)

SUNDAY, July 12, to the front parking lot, between 2 -3 pm.

Donations go to our partners at Lutheran Social Services, where it is distributed to local residents.

ALSO ON July 12 - bring gently used clothes and shoes (no torn or stained clothing) for distribution through Calvary Presbyterian.

GOAL: 250 boxes and cans of food. We can do it.

GOAL: 15 full boxes and bags of clothing. We can do it.



### FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Please take advantage of these Giving Opportunities

- ◇ ONLINE: Visit our website at [www.magpres.com/give](http://www.magpres.com/give)
- ◇ MOBILE via text Text "magpres" to 77977
- ◇ MOBILE via app -- Download our church app - COMING SOON!
- ◇ U.S. MAIL

Send a check via US Mail to our mailing address

7200 Magnolia Avenue | Riverside CA 92507

◇

Questions? Email [stewardship@magpres.com](mailto:stewardship@magpres.com)

**Continuing SERMON SERIES**  
*People in the book of Genesis from a modern  
vantage point*







# JULY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Lydia Bowman July 3  
 Jenny Brooks July 4  
 Estella Gettis July 4  
 Erin Gettis July 6  
 Marilyn Nail July 6  
 Cynthia Wright July 8  
 Blakelyn Rinker July 12

Lance Mordue July 13  
 Jean Riggs July 13  
 Rhonda Rehnke July 14  
 Sandra Richards July 14  
 Kristine Shea July 14  
 Abygail Stiffler July 18  
 Gail Zwart July 19  
 Gio Campos July 21  
 Jane Peden July 21  
 Benjamin Lee July 23  
 Jamesyn Rinker July 23  
 Christopher Nelson July 24  
 Alli Shaff July 24  
 Debbie Benninger July 27  
 Bill Bingham July 31  
 Kyle Rinker July 31



### 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!

## SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS

Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center

Camp has shifted to an online-only experience.

[www.bigbearlakechristianconferencecenter.com](http://www.bigbearlakechristianconferencecenter.com)



## Thank you to--

- ⊗ Jeannie B., Danielle G., Carla C., and Lisa M. for gathering Moms and Dads greetings for the slide shows.
- ⊗ Heather D. and FOM for Father's Day e-cards
- ⊗ Dave K. and Mission Committee for organizing the clothes drive
- ⊗ Gary W. and deacons, D. Kirby, Clarke and Jeanette P. and John P. for working at the drive-through two-can collection.
  
- ⊗ Tessa Islas for serving as youth leader for two years.
- ⊗ Tessa and Pastor Claire - for flocking graduates' lawns.
- ⊗ Design Committee for meeting with architects.
- ⊗ Bret Benninger and John Wright for installing signs on the Worship Center and Christian Education Center
- ⊗ Ann L. and Barbara J. for delivering 100 meals to Path of Life in May.
- ⊗ Laura M., Carol Y., Heather D., Hannah D., Kathy C., and Melissa H. who prepared lunches in May and 30 for the homeless May 2 and 30
- ⊗ Jay N. and Stewardship Committee (and Pastor Paul) for researching and implementing new online giving platform.
- ⊗ Worship Committee and Music Staff for beautiful streaming services
- ⊗ Covid Re-opening Committee for establishing protocols for staff and visitors to our campus.



A Rich Tradition...A Bright Future

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

**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



**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

