



# Magnolia Presbyterian Church

## The UpLook

### August 2022

**New Members Orientation Classes:** Two-part series on July 31st & August 7th, 11:30 am.

Learn more about MagPres and being a Presbyterian.

**Praise & Pie:** All Singing? All Desserts? Come do *both* on Sunday night, July 31st 6:00 p.m.

**Blessing of the Backpacks:** For Students & Teachers, Sunday, August 7th, 10:00 a.m. service.

**VBS Thank you's!** and **Stronger Two-Can Sunday numbers!** Way t'go everyone!

### Pastor's Ponderings

*"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation where-with ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

~Ephesians 4:1-3 (KJV)



Every two years, the highest governing body of our denomination gathers to accomplish the work assigned to it and to cast a vision for our denomination, for at least the next two years, but often more.

At this year's General Assembly, with our very own Cherylyn Thornton in attendance, representing Riverside Presbytery as a Commissioner, a number of actions, statements, and decisions were made. Many are joy-filled because of these actions, while many are concerned and challenged. Perhaps the action that was deemed most controversial was a motion to declare that "the PC(USA) recognize the laws, policies and practices of the Israeli government regarding the Palestinian people fulfill the international legal definition of apartheid." Some of my colleagues take issue with this action, believing it damages interfaith relations, especially with some of our Jewish siblings. Others of my colleagues embraced this action, believing it is a faithful witness to people who are being treated inhumanely and unjustly.

As my colleagues discussed their disagreement on this particular action, I was heartened to witness and experience civil discourse. Too often,

I experience disagreements that devolve into heated and hurtful exchanges.

As Presbyterians, one of our Historic Principles of Church Order (F-3.0105) is Mutual Forbearance. Now forbearance is not a word I encounter

*Continued on page 2 -->*



### Blessing of the Backpacks

**Sunday, August 7th**  
**10 am service.**

Kids bring your school backpacks, and teachers bring yours too (or your rollie bag of teaching materials), and we will bless you for a productive and joy-filled 2022-23 school year. You'll all receive an encouraging backpack tag to remind you that...



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regularly (it is in our Book of Order and I think I saw it in loan paperwork), but it's a word that can be helpful in our further dividing world. It means: "to bear with or put up with each other when we are most divided." Even when we disagree, we set our disagreement aside to remain together and do what God is calling us to do. An example of this is a quote from the actor Robert Mitchum.

"A reporter once asked him to share the secret of the success of his marriage of more than thirty years—an unheard-of tenure in the divorce-friendly Hollywood culture. Mitchum's answer was, 'Mutual forbearance. We have each continued to believe the other will do better tomorrow.' The film star's marital credo recalls the old bumper-sticker slogan: "Be patient: God isn't finished with me yet." (Carlos Wilton, *Principles of Presbyterian Polity*).

We Presbyterians, at our core, are uniquely positioned to participate in and change the divisive world we live in because of our historic principle: Mutual Forbearance. But how well are we expressing this principle today?

Your forbearance curious Co-Pastor,  
Paul

"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity"  
~Rupertus Meldenius



## DEACONS' CORNER

We have seen, heard, and experienced much over the last few years and cannot help but wonder when will life be normal again. Admittedly, I love the convenience of watching the service online after having enjoyed my cup of coffee and newspaper without hurry, but there is much more to be said for the joy it brings being able to be with the family of Magnolia. People need people. People need touch. People need prayer. People also need joy and laughter; especially during these trying times.

While humor and laughter may only mask a problem or issue, it does give way to clarity of mind and spirit. There has not been a Sunday that I attended church over the pandemic years that I was not able to hear a deep-bellied guffaw. It is infectious. Necessary. Laughter can be a bridge for communication for even the shyest or introverted of people. Smiles and laughter bridge generation gaps showing that one is understood or accepted.

*Ecclesiastes 8:15: "So I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy life. That way they will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives them under the sun." (NLTB)*

*Luke 6:21: "God blesses you who are hungry now, for you will be satisfied. God blesses you who weep now for in due time you will laugh." (NLTB)*

Laughter is a coping mechanism and has health benefits too! It is understood that laughter improves your immune system, is a natural form of exercise involving several muscles, improves blood pressure, and improves your memory and mood.

So I share with you now a joke from Reader's Digest:

A Christian guy named Bill saw an ad online for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out. The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. Just say 'Praise the Lord!' to make him go and 'Amen!' to make him stop."

Bill got on the horse and said, "Praise the Lord!" Sure enough, the horse started to walk.

"Praise the Lord!" he said again, and the horse began to trot.

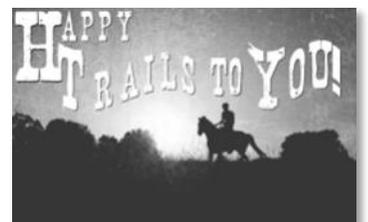
"Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop. Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn't notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over.

Bill shouted "AMEN!" at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff.

Relieved, Bill said, "Phew! Praise the Lord!"

—Submitted by Z.S. via rd.com

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Brandenberger  
Moderator of the  
Deacons 2022



**Now that the 2022 General Assembly has ended – the first-ever hybrid assembly – the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will try to live into the commitments made and the work ahead.** Ruth Santana-Grace and Shavon

Starling-Louis, the new co-moderators, stood for election using the theme “Unbounded We Thrive,” and the assembly spoke its mind on issues affecting the church and the world.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 225 ROUNDUP

**Israel/Palestine.** The assembly voted 266-116 to approve one of the most controversial items before it — INT-02, declaring that the PC(USA) recognize the laws, policies and practices of the Israeli government regarding the Palestinian people “fulfill the international legal definition of apartheid.” Some have criticized the PC(USA) stance towards Israel as antisemitic, saying it hurts interfaith relations. Others say the assembly spoke courageously in supporting human rights for the Palestinian people.

**Climate change.** Voting 340-41, the assembly directed PC(USA) entities to divest from five oil and gas companies it concluded are not moving quickly enough to try to slow global warming — Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66, and Valero Energy. The vote reflected continued support for the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI)’s strategy of corporate engagement and selective divestment. Action on another item, ENV-09, also affirmed “that working in the fossil fuel industry is a necessity for many” and assured Presbyterians that “divestment is not a condemnation or judgment of their choice of employment.”

**Litany of repentance.** One of the assembly’s most powerful emotional moments came when White Presbyterians recited a litany of repentance from RGJ-08, offering an apology to African Americans for the sin of slavery and its legacy. One assembly committee focused exclusively on issues of race and gender justice — including violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, disparities experienced by Black women and girls, and racial disparities in health care. Other concerns: confronting White supremacy in the PC(USA) and working for reparative justice.

**Gun violence.** With recent mass shootings still echoing, the assembly approved VIOL-07, declaring 2022-2032 a “Decade to End Gun Violence” — asking the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) to develop tools for faith-based advocacy against gun violence and for studying “the intersection of white supremacy culture, Christian nationalism, and gender with gun violence.” It also approved VIOL-11,



directing MRTI to begin a process of corporate engagement with Walmart, Dick’s Sporting Goods, and Kroger, three publicly-traded companies included in the investment portfolios of either the Board of Pensions or Presbyterian Foundation, and which sell guns not classified as semi-automatic and assault-based weapons. (Those weapons previously mentioned are already on the divestment list.)

**Family leave.** The assembly approved a proposed amendment to the PC(USA) constitution to say a minister’s terms of call shall include at least 12 weeks of paid family medical leave (covering the birth, fostering or adoption of a child; care for ill or disabled family members; and healing following a loss or tragic event). To take effect, the proposed change needs approval from a majority of the presbyteries.

**Immigration.** The assembly voted 340-25 to declare the PC(USA) a “sanctuary and accompaniment church” — saying the denomination stands with immigrants and asylum-seekers and is committed to working for justice in U.S. immigration policy. That work often involves Presbyterians accompanying immigrants by offering housing and legal assistance, going with them to immigration hearings and other appointments and trying to get people released from detention.

**Restructuring.** Supporting recommendations from a special committee, the assembly voted to create a commission with the power to act and the responsibility for unifying the PMA and the Office of the General Assembly — basically, to restructure the top level of the PC(USA). Citing financial stress on congregations and presbyteries, the assembly also created a team to develop experimental models as alternatives to the current per capita funding system.

**Reproductive justice.** In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the assembly approved a resolution on reproductive justice — saying the PC(USA) rejects “attempts at all levels of government to reduce, limit, or eliminate access to contraceptive and abortion care.”

**LGBTQIA+ equity.** The assembly created a new LGBTQIA+ Equity Advocacy Committee as a permanent committee of the General Assembly — equivalent in access and accountability to the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice and the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee.

**Per capita.** The assembly set the new General Assembly per capita assessment at \$9.85 per member for 2023 and \$9.80 per member for 2024. That compares to the current per capita rate of \$8.98 per member.

**2024 General Assembly.** Presented with four options, the assembly opted for a hybrid approach again for the 2024 assembly — choosing Plan Omega with online committee meetings and in-person plenary sessions in Salt Lake City, Utah.



# REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH



**CHOIR REHEARSALS:** The Chancel Choir will resume on September 11. Interested in joining the choir? Talk to John Wright – [music@magpres.com](mailto:music@magpres.com)

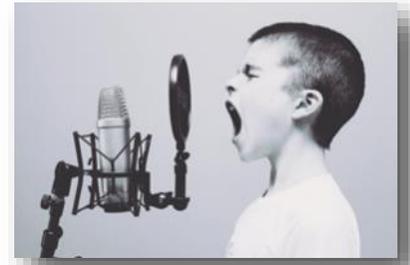
**WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY:** On summer break; returning this Fall. Join us then for a relaxing time to delve into Scripture, pray, and fellowship.

**TROOP 16:** Meets every Wednesday night at 7 pm in the Fireside Room. Our Charter Organization Rep is Tim Lewis ([weblewis@gmail.com](mailto:weblewis@gmail.com)).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School for children in grades Kindergarten thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade is offered in-person & via Zoom during our 10am worship service. In-person will meet in the in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to connect on zoom, please use this link: **Meeting ID: 259885602 Password: 7200**

**YOUTH GROUP** will resume in the Fall. If you have questions or want to keep connected, contact Pastor Paul at [paul@magpres.com](mailto:paul@magpres.com).

## STANDING ANNOUNCEMENTS



**ACCESS WORSHIP ONLINE:** You can participate in worship by going to [magpres.com/watch](http://magpres.com/watch) or visiting our Facebook page ([facebook.com/magpres](https://facebook.com/magpres)).  
*Services are archived for you to watch later (or again!)*

**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. In July, we collected 179 food items. **Keep up the good work(!)** as we continue loving our neighbors who are hungry! Our next Two-Can collection date will be August 14th.

**STATER BROS. GIFT CARDS:** Gift cards in the amounts of \$25, \$50, and \$100 are available to purchase in the church office. Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 3:00pm. 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:** Directories are available in the church office, or you can have one mailed to you. Instructions on downloading the app to our "Instant Church Directory" are on page 5 (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](mailto:church@magpres.com)**



**DEACONS DOOR OFFERING:** The first Sunday of every month, we collect the DEACONS DOOR 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 & wine" 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 stranger.

# YOU CAN HELP...

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Dear Church Family,

**WHAT:** The Christian Education Committee is seeking volunteers to teach Sunday School. It can be for one week at a time or more.

**WHO:** individuals / couples or friends / youth under the age of 18.

Contact Christian Education Committee Chair, Zach Gipson, at [zachwgipson@gmail.com](mailto:zachwgipson@gmail.com) or the church office.

Thank you all for your prayerful consideration.



## GIVE A HUGE "THANK YOU" TO OUR FAITHFUL VBS VOLUNTEERS

Be sure to give a fist pump of gratitude to the many VBS Volunteers who worked hard with last week's VBS students. BIG shout out to Lisa MacDougall who organized our MagPres crew. The energetic volunteers sang songs (with motions...aerobics any one...?), they played games, they prepped food, they helped little creative minds grow in the knowledge of God and the Bible. Most of all they gave love! THANK YOU, ALL!

# THIS SUNDAY!

## NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION CLASSES BEGIN

*Find out more about Magnolia Presbyterian Church and what it means to be "Presbyterian"*

Please join us for a TWO-PART New Members Class on July 31st & August 7th at 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room  
Lunch will be served on the 31st.

Questions? See Pastor Claire or email her at [claire@magpres.com](mailto:claire@magpres.com)



New Member Class



## PRAISE & PIE

A whole service of singing!

A potluck of just Desserts!

Best. Day. Ever!

**Sunday night, July 31st at 6:00 p.m.**

**WE'LL DO BOTH!**

Sing along to our own MagPres mix of favorite praise choruses and hymns and then fellowship over a feast of pie and other goodies you've brought (enough to serve 8-10 other hungry singers, please).



## HOW TO GIVE TO MAGPRES

Please take advantage of these Giving Opportunities.

**ONLINE:** Visit our website at [www.magpres.com/give](http://www.magpres.com/give)

**MOBILE:** Text "magpres" to 77977

**MOBILE:** Download our church app through the Apple App Store or Google Play. Search for "Magnolia Presbyterian Church"

**U.S. MAIL:** Send check via US Mail to our address at 7200 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504

# DON'T FORGET...

## Nouwen Book Study Exploring Spirituality Continues

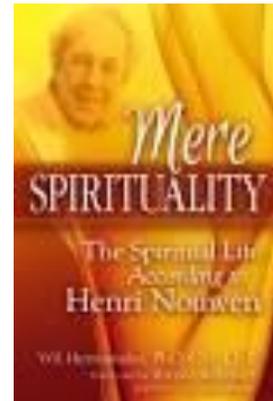
Pastor Claire is leading a thoughtful discussion on our Community Zoom group as we find out more about Henri Nouwen and what his view of "spirituality" really is.

**What:** *Mere Spirituality: the Spiritual Life According to Henry Nouwen*

by Wil Hernandez, Ph.D., Obl. OSB. This book is available on Kindle and from online retailers.

**When:** Sundays, 1:00 p.m., August 7th (Ch 6 & 7) & 21st (Ch 8 & 9)

**How:** Zoom Community Group# 259 885 602 & Password is 7200



Stay for fellowship on  
August 21st in our next...



**COFFEE TIME is coming** on August 21 (third Sunday of the month).

Be sure to stay after church and enjoy the fellowship!

Regular weekly refreshments start on Sept. 11.

THANKS to the FOM (the Fellowship, Outreach, & Membership) Team!



**CHURCH DIRECTORY...ONLINE!** View our director online or via the FREE mobile app.

Go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](http://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) & follow the "Sign In" prompts to

"Create a login now." Confirm your email address to sign in. Download the free mobile app at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store, and the Amazon Fire App Store. Use your email (as listed in our directory) to create your log-in. Need help or have any questions? Please contact Pastor Paul ([paul@magpres.com](mailto:paul@magpres.com)).

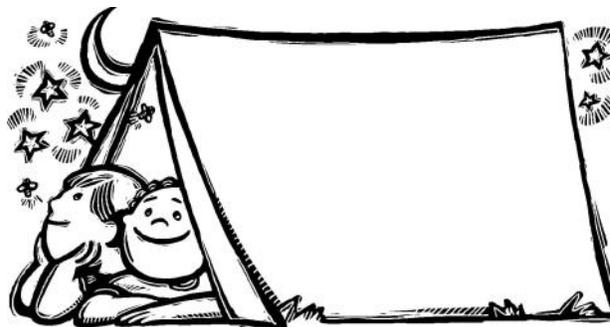


## Scout Corner, June 2022

*Tim Lewis*

*Charter Organization Rep.*

Summer Camp Update. The Troop returned to Camp Big Horn (near Lake Arrowhead) as they had such a good time last year. This week's trip was also great up and until Friday. A Lone Scout (a solo scout without a troop) was paired up with our small troop. Friday morning he was taken to the hospital with what they thought was an asthma attack. Turns out it was Covid. This week's Wednesday meeting is canceled as they sequester. However, so far 3 of our Scouts and 2 adult leaders have tested positive and/or have come down with it.



I was at church last Sunday, but had no contact with the Troop in the 10 days previous to their leaving to camp and still no contact. So, be careful out there. Or as a Scout would say "Be Prepared."

--Tim Lewis

## Stewardship REPORT

Treasurer's Report  
General Fund as of  
6/30/2022

Balance Jan. 1, 2022	\$0.00
2022 Income	\$190,264.69
2022 Expense	\$202,935.22
Balance June 30, 2022	(\$12,670.57)

*Session is on Break for July  
and will meet again*

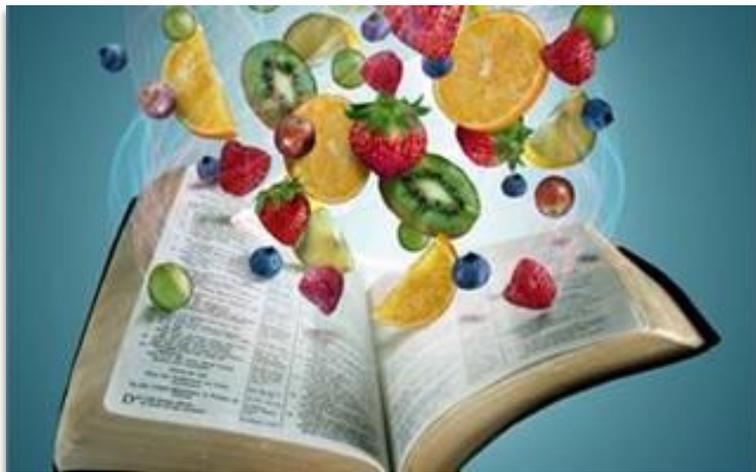
**SUNDAY SCHOOL** for children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade is offered In-Person and via Zoom during our 10:00 a.m. worship service.

In-person will meet in the Fireside Room at 10:20 a.m. Those attending via Zoom simply sign in to Zoom and use the Meeting ID: 259 885 602 and the Password 7200 to join the fun.

This Summer we will study Noah (and the Ark!) and the Fruit of the Spirit. Sunday School includes Bible lessons, songs, crafts, and play time.

**Our memory verse for August is Galatians 5:22-23 with the final portion of verse 23 for those ready for more of a challenge:**

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this.”



**Birthdays!**

- Marge Cox Aug 9
- Bruce Ferrel Aug 10
- Evie Reiman Aug 12
- Gary Grant Aug 14
- Taylor Stiffler Aug 17
- Bev Williams Aug 19
- Kathy Safford Aug 20
- Linda Welman Aug 22
- Beverly Guidero Aug 24
- Jerry Fisher Aug 27
- Barbara Johnson Aug 28
- Robin Smith Aug 29
- Marti Hendrix Aug 29



**Anniversaries!**

- Cohen, Kathy & Neil** Aug 14
- Dickenson, Heather & Richard** Aug 14
- Copeland, Rev. Brad & Lori** Aug 20  
*(celebrating 45 years!)*
- Platner, Pat & Gary** Aug 30



...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  
Church Office Hours  
Mon-Thurs 8:30 am—3 pm  
Closed Friday

AUGUST  
2022

Magnolia Presbyterian  
Church Staff

The Rev. Claire Schlegel  
Co-Pastor

The Rev. Paul Knopf  
Co-Pastor

Adrien Lowery  
Office Manager

James Walters  
Music Director/Organist

Saw Shein  
Contemporary Music Leader

John Wright, Choral Director

Cynthia Wright, Pianist

Allison Robinson,  
Nursery Attendant

Jeff Ludwig, Treasurer

[vacant] Youth Leader



# August 2022

## MagPres Events Calendar

Aug 2022 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>31</p> <p>Full Session</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>10:30am - Children's Sunday School</p> <p>11:30am - New Member Class Part 1</p> <p>6pm - Prayers &amp; Pk</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6pm - CE Circle</p> <p>7pm - Soft Circle</p> <p>7pm - Mission Circle</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7pm - Troop 16</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Original</p> <p>6pm - EEEAC</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30am - EEEAC</p>
<p>7</p> <p>10am - Blessing of the Backpacks</p> <p>10am - Commission Sunday</p> <p>10am - Deacon Door Offertory</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>10:30am - Children's Sunday School</p> <p>11:30am - New Member Class Part 2</p> <p>1pm - Book Study/Menu Spirituality</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6pm - Worship Circle</p> <p>6:30pm - PDM Circle</p> <p>7pm - Stew_7th Circle</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7pm - Troop 16</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Original</p> <p>6pm - EEEAC</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30am - EEEAC</p> <p>6pm - Path of LIVINGSBY CHRIST</p>
<p>14</p> <p>10am - WOCAN Sunday</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>10:30am - Children's Sunday School</p>	<p>15</p> <p>USCOPAR Women's Day</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7pm - Deacon Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Session Women's Day</p> <p>7pm - Troop 16</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Original</p> <p>6pm - EEEAC</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30am - EEEAC</p>
<p>21</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>10:30am - Children's Sunday School</p> <p>11:15am - Coffee and Snacks</p> <p>1pm - Book Study/Menu Spirituality</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7pm - Session Meeting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7pm - Troop 16</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Original</p> <p>6pm - EEEAC</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30am - EEEAC</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>10:30am - Children's Sunday School</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7pm - Session Workshop</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7pm - Troop 16</p>	<p>31</p>	 <p><b>AUGUST 2022</b> Naamah-guest...</p>		

# August 2022

September 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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	

August 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	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			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 31	Aug 1 Donna Crossen	2 Kayla Crossen	3 David and Margy Crowley	4 Sharon Deleal	5 Anne Denham	6 Hannah Dickenson Heather and Richard Dickenson
7 Tammy, Chris, Jackson & Anderson Duncan	8 Alice Ehlers & Joice Ehlers	9 Carol Farmer	10 Bruce Ferrel	11 Janet Field & Eleanor Miller	12 Jerry Fisher & Danielle Good	13 Brenda Flowers
14 Leah French	15 Catelyn Garcia & Christian Garcia	16 Erin, Aaron, Estella, & Cole Gettis	17 Maddy & Zach Gipson	18 Jeanne & Steve Gold	19 Holly, Marcus, & James Goulet-Peretz	20 Ilene Gradney
21 Edith & Gary Grant	22 The Rev. Kam & Suzanne Griffen	23 Beverly Guidero	24 Everal Hathaway	25 Marti & Tom Hendrix	26 Patty Hernandez	27 Melissa Holden, Sonia Campos, & Gilo
28 Krista, Sean, & Sara Hollenhorst	29 Jeanne & Richard Hood	30 Julie & Tom Hutchinson	31 Connie & John Jackson			