



Magnolia Presbyterian Church

The UpLook

January 2024

2024 PLEDGE ENVELOPES will be mailed out in January if not picked up.

TWO-CAN SUNDAY non-perishable food collection on Sunday, January 14th

YOUTH GROUP meets on Sundays, from 6-8pm, in the Youth Room.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets on Monday's, at 9:30am, in the Library Room.

A Pastor's Ponderings

New Year's Resolutions. Do you love them or hate them?

I am actually not a fan of New Year's resolutions. It might be because by March, I have failed every single one of them. It might be a psychological thing: if you know you're going to fail, why try? It's probably because I can't say no to white rice, football, or technology (the most often used subjects of my resolutions). So when it comes to New Year's resolutions, I just don't employ them.

As we start 2024, I happen to be trying to make an intentional change, one that is quite biblical. Exodus 20:8 says, "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy." For 2024, I am trying to set aside time to rest, weekly. Too often in the past, something would need to get done and I would utilize my day off to try and complete it. But in 2024, I am going to try and keep a sabbath, a day of rest that won't involve any work. This requires some changes from me: not checking email on my off day, planning ahead to get things done so that I can truly be off, and to the dismay of some, I won't respond to texts or phone calls on those days. While I plan to make these intentional changes this year, I could use your help too.

One of the things I have been doing on my day off was finding a liturgist (a person to help lead parts of the worship service). If you feel called to help lead worship, or if you feel compelled or give it a try, visit magpres.com/liturgist and you can sign up for a particular day.

Another thing I have been doing on my day off was putting together the lyric slides for Sunday Worship. If you are proficient in PowerPoint (or the Mac equivalent called Keynote) and are good at copying and pasting, you might have the skill set for this.

Finally, sometimes on my day off I was trying to find ushers. As we enter 2024, we are looking for an Usher Coordinator to help organize and schedule our ushers. Feeling called to be an usher or even the Usher Coordinator? Let me know.

As we begin 2024, I am intentionally trying to make a change for the better, but it's not a New Year's resolution. It happens to be taking place as the calendar turns over. Are you making resolutions? Are you keeping them? Want to get more connected with church? Consider the options mentioned above.

Your not doing a New Year's resolution Pastor,

Paul

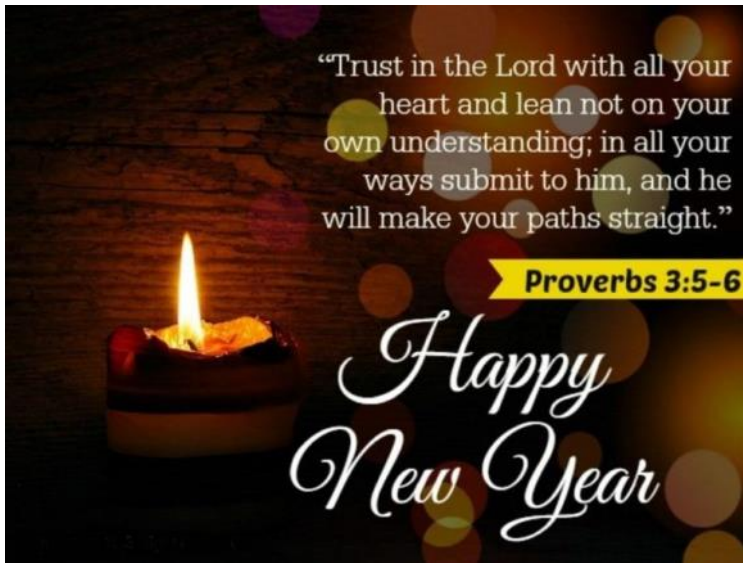
PS - Happy New Year



What the New Year brings to you will depend on what you bring to the New Year!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Please join me in thanking our Elders who are going off Session - - Ann Laudermilk and Melissa Holden, and John Reinhardt. They have definitely given of their time, talent and energy in their ministry as Elders. As we greet the new year, we welcome back Linda Bingham and Eric Brandenberger second terms; Mary Lee, and Jane Peden to another term on Session after a few years off, and Everal Hathaway for her first term. Read on to find out more about these in-coming Elders:

Mary Lee is serving her second term on Session, and has been a member of Magnolia for 37 years. She is married to Marshall, and has two sons, Sam(30), and Ben(26). She grew up in a Catholic family of 9 children in Michigan. She is retired from Riverside County, environmental compliance for road construction. Her hobbies include gardening, pilates/gym, reading, cooking, and sewing. When asked of her favorite vacation destination, she says "Anywhere!" If she had not been with the County, she would have liked to have worked at a plant nursery. Mary's favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ." Over her 37 years at Magnolia, she has served as a Sunday School teacher, on both the Fellowship Committee and Missions, and has been active in the small group programs. She has also answered the call as a Deacon, and an Elder. When asked why she answered the call to serve on Session, Mary said "I am blessed to have the time and energy to serve." Her focus for the future of Magnolia is "to continue caring for and serving as many people as possible."

Everal Hathaway is serving her second term on Session and has been a member of Magnolia for 10 years. She was married to Michael Hathaway for 28 years, and a widow for 21 years. She has one daughter, Lauren, married to Jeremy Sherwood and they have her "darling little granddaughter, Paige." She is a retired surgical nurse. Had she not been a nurse, she says she "would definitely have liked to have been a teacher, Family Practice Dr., or Psychiatrist." Her hobbies include music, especially opera (thus her e-mail address of operagal), cooking, and hiking. Her favorite vacation destinations are Lake Tahoe, Utah, and the beach. Everal's favorite book of the Bible is Ephesians and her favorite thing about Magnolia is the "marvelous people I have met." She has served on the Nominating Committee and has been a Deacon. When asked why she answered the call to serve on Session, Everal says "To serve the Lord."

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session



CELEBRATING MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES - 2024

Eleven years ago, I started a yearly recognition of our long-time members celebrating milestone years (in five year spans), starting at 40 or more. Please join me, as this tradition continues, in wishing these special members "well done good and faithful servant" for their priceless, loyal and unwavering contributions to our Magnolia family.

"Magnolia's milestone members for 2024" and their date of membership :

<i>Lila O'Dell</i>	<i>60 years</i>	<i>May 15, 1964</i>
<i>Evelyn Shea</i>	<i>55 years</i>	<i>December 10, 1969</i>
<i>Cherylyn Thornton</i>	<i>50 years</i>	<i>March 31, 1974</i>
<i>Rhonda Rehnke</i>	<i>45 years</i>	<i>March, 1979</i>
<i>Lori Copeland</i>	<i>45 years</i>	<i>November 4, 1979</i>

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session



Join us for winter fun with



Sunday nights from 6-8 p.m.

for both Middle School (grades 6-8)
and High School (9-12) students.

Jan 7	Dinner
Jan 14	No Meeting
Jan 21	Meeting
Jan 28	Meeting

We will be meeting in the youth room (enter off Potomac St, through the gate on the left, and the first door is the Youth Room).

Hope to see you there!

~ Catelyn

CHURCH PARKING LOT

Please note the main church parking lot repairs were delayed due to rain & will resume in January.

TWO-CAN SUNDAY

Every 2nd Sunday of the month MagPres collects non-perishable food donations for Lutheran Social Services local food distribution. Last month we collected 242 items!

Woo-hoo!!

Let's see if we can top that for January!

The next **TWO-CAN SUNDAY** is **JANUARY 14th**.

Donations may be dropped off during Sunday Service or in the church office.



J Just think of all the juggling that we did throughout the holiday season. Shopping, wrapping, cooking, caroling, sending cards, visiting friends and family, and attending festive events. Hopefully, we also took time to savor the special moments and celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth. Psalm 32:11 says, "Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart."



A Another year has begun. We have a fresh start and a chance to accomplish new goals, learn something new, and hopefully find ways to be a blessing to those around us. 2nd Corinthians 5:17 reminds us, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."

N Never give up. Those extra holiday pounds can melt away once we get back into our routine of healthy eating and exercise. Things we didn't get to do last year, and things that we want to pursue anew are all possible. 2nd Chronicles 5:17 says, "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work shall be rewarded."

U Use the gifts that God has given you. 1st Peter 4:10 states, "Each one of us has received a gift, Use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

A Ask God what He wants from you in the year ahead. Don't just drift along hoping for the best in 2024. We can be reassured from the words in Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

R Read something worthy of your time and effort. Ask friends for recommendations of books they have read that made an impact on their lives. Read news articles that offer you a new perspective to broaden your understanding of a topic. Commit to reading the Bible consistently and consider starting a plan from a Bible app. 2nd Timothy 3:16-17 tells us, "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Y You are special. You can make the year ahead a true adventure. You are worthy of God's love. 1st Peter 2:9 assures us, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

Happy New Year!
Elizabeth Zarecki

LOOKING FOR COOKS!!

Like to cook?

Looking for a
way to be involved?



The Christian Education committee is looking for volunteers to provide a meal for the youth group on the first Sunday of each month during the school year. The meal would need to be at the church by 6pm and the provider is welcome and encouraged to stay and eat with the group.

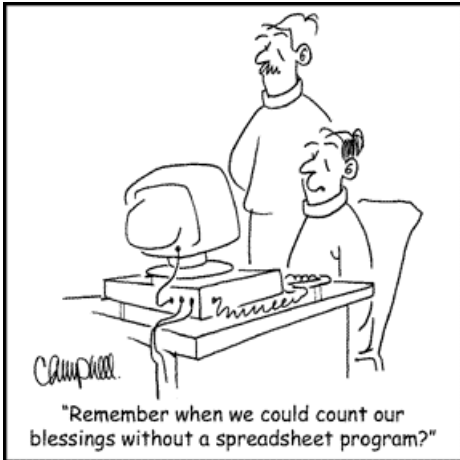
If that sounds like a call you would like to answer, please contact Heather Dickenson (hdickenson61@gmail.com or 951.515.3184)

SPARK PROGRAM

Magnolia Presbyterian Church with Midas Corporation (Midas of Orange-Jaeson Robinson), have joined together in a new endeavor called "Project Spark". The intent of the program is to provide a running reliable vehicle to a family or person in need to be used primarily to get to and from work, school, and doctors. With a donation of a vehicle Midas will fix and Magnolia will gift to the person or family. This is where you come in, you can donate a vehicle with minimal expense or maybe you know of someone who has a vehicle they could donate? If you can help, please let the Mission Committee know or contact Mary Lee.



REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH



CHOIR REHEARSALS: Come lend your voice to the Chancel Choir !

Rehearsals are Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Have Questions? Email John Wright at music@magpres.com

WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY: Will resume Mon., January 8th, 9:30a.m. Join us in the Library for a relaxing time to delve into Scripture, pray, and fellowship.

TROOP 16: Meets every Monday night at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room. Our Charter Organization Rep is Tim Lewis (webelewis@gmail.com).

YOUTH GROUP: meets on Sunday from 6-8pm 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 and via Zoom. Nursery is in Room 9. If you would like to connect on zoom, please use this link: **Meeting ID: 59885602 Password: 7200**

STANDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!)



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! **Our next Two-Can collection date will be January 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: Instructions on downloading the app to our "Instant Church Directory" are on page 7 (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 stranger.

YOU CAN HELP...

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Dear Church Family, The Christian Education Committee is seeking donation of a working printer.

CE is also seeking volunteers to teach Sunday School. It can be for one week at a time or more. Individuals / couples or friends / youth under the age of 18--all are welcome.

Contact Christian Education Committee Chair, Heather Dickenson, at hdickenson61@gmail.com or the church office.

Thank you all for your prayerful consideration.

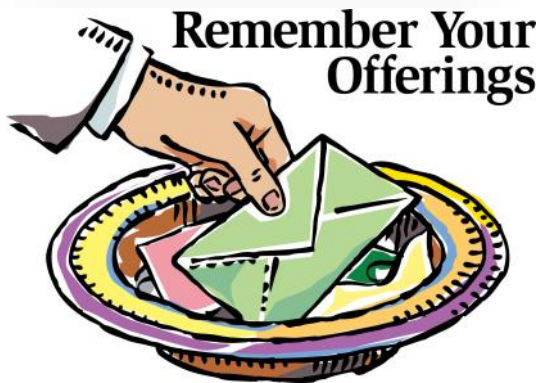


CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Those of you who have always dreamed of a career of stuffing newsletters and applying address labels--*your time has come!*

Our trusty Office Admin could use the help of a rotating crew of volunteers one morning a month to get out the *UpLook* newsletter, and other fantastic activities you can do while seated in the most comfortable chair in the office!

If you think you could offer your help monthly or even just occasionally, please email Church@MagPres.com and let us know your possible availability (best days of the week & times). Thank you!!



HOW TO GIVE TO MAGPRES

Please take advantage of these convenient Giving Opportunities:

DONATE: Check or cash in offering plate or dropped off in the office

BANK: Set-up one-time or recurring donations with your bank bill pay

ONLINE: Visit our website at www.magpres.com/give

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

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 children will meet in Rm 8 and Nursery in Rm 9 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.

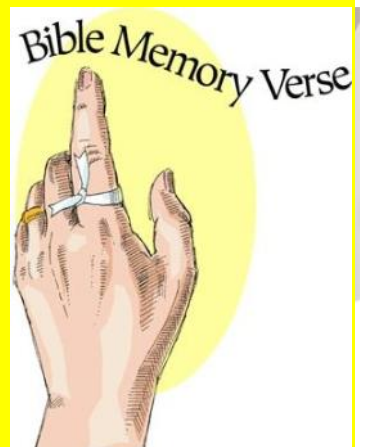
Sunday School includes Bible lessons, songs, crafts, and play time

Our memory verse for January is **John 6:14**

This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world.

For more advanced Bible scholars, the full verse is:

When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, "This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world."



DON'T FORGET...

Mag Café will be available January 14th right after the 10:00a.m. Worship Service.

Join us in the Fireside Room for Java and Treats... and stay for the Fellowship & Conversation!



CHURCH DIRECTORY...ONLINE!

View our directory online or via the FREE mobile app.

Go to 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).

Happy New Year Happy New Year Happy New Year

GOT LITURGY?

Want to participate in leading worship on
Sunday in 2024?

Sign-up now for an upcoming Sunday at:

<http://magpres.com/liturgist>



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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



Magnolia Presbyterian
Church Staff

The Rev. Paul Knopf
Pastor

Lisa Gulino
Administrative Assistant

James Walters
Trad. Music Director/Organist

John Wright
Choral Director

Cynthia Wright
Pianist/Accompanist

Allison Robinson
Nursery Attendant

Catelyn Garcia
Youth Leader



January 2024 Prayer Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Alice Ehlers	2 Joyce Ehlers	3 Carol Farmer	4 Bruce Ferrel	5 Janet Field	6 Eleanor Miller
7 FP of Riverside	8 Jerry Fisher	9 Danielle Good	10 Brenda Flowers	11 the French family	12 Catelyn Garcia	13 Christian Garcia
14 BaG Committee	15 the Gettis Family	16 Stephanie Gibbs	17 the Gipson family	18 Steve Gold	19 the Goulet-Perez family	20 Ilene Gradney
21 CE Committee	22 Edith & Gary Grant	23 Roger Grant	24 Karn & Suzanne Griffen	25 Bev Guidero	26 Everal Hathaway	27 Tom & Marti Hendrix
28 Endowment Committee	29 Patty Hernandez	30 Melissa Holden	31 the Hollenhorst family			



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



January Birthdays

Flora Livingstone	2nd	Wayne Andrew	14th	Deanna Lacy	19th
Margie Watson	4th	Dan Brooks	14th	Lowell Lacy	20th
Krysten Stiffler	4th	Steve McKee	14th	Makenzie Nelson	20th
James Walters	4th	Michelle Laudermilk	15th	Sherry Nettles	22nd
Precious Mabena	6th	Ryan Laudermilk	15th	Donna Nelson	23rd
Chris Nettles	8th	James Laudermilk	15th	Tammy Duncan	29th
Cynthia Spring-Pearson	8th	Maddy Gipson	17th	Laurie Ludwig	29th
Bethany Na	8th	Arlo Sachs	17th	Rick Allert	30th
Clarke Prescott	13th	Lance Alford	18th		

January Anniversaries

Cherylyn & Thomas Thornton	16th	Mel & Rhonda Rehnke	17th
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January 2024 MagPres Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day 9:30am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop	2 6pm - CE Cmte. 6:30pm - FOM Cmte. 7pm - BaG Cmte. 7pm - Mission Cmte.	3 7pm - Choir Practice	4	5 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	6 9:30am - EEEAC
7 10am - Communion Sunday 10am - Deacon Door Offering 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 6pm - Youth Group Meeting	8 9:30am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop	9 6pm - Worship Cmte 7pm - Stew_Fin Cmte	10 7pm - Choir Practice	11	12 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	13 9:30am - EEEAC 4pm - Path of Life Meal Prep
14 10am - TWO-CAN Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 9:30am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop	16 7pm - Deacon Meeting	17 Session Mat'ls Due 9am 7pm - Choir Practice	18	19 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	20 9:30am - EEEAC
21 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 6pm - Youth Group Meeting	22 9am UpLook Mat'ls Due 9:30am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop	23 7pm - Session Meeting	24 7pm - Choir Practice	25	26 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	27 9:30am - EEEAC
28 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 6pm - Youth Group Meeting	29 9:30am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop	30	31 7pm - Choir Practice			