



# Magnolia Presbyterian Church

## The UpLook

*March 2024*

**EASTER SERVICE** 10am on Sunday, March 31st ~ followed by an Egg-Hunt  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY** March 28th, Supper 6pm ~ Worship Service 7pm  
**TWO-CAN SUNDAY** non-perishable food collection on Sunday, March 10th  
**RIVERSIDE CROP HUNGER WALK** Sunday, March 17th , 1:30pm  
**NEW BUILDING FUNDRAISER** Wednesday, March 27th at CPK in Riverside Plaza

### A Pastor's Ponderings

Perhaps you felt it too. Over the last few months. The ground shook. And it shook. And it shook again. Earthquakes are a part of life in Southern California, but seemingly, they have increased in frequency recently (at least 8 with a magnitude of 4.0 or higher).



Do you remember, a number of years ago, on Easter Sunday, that rolling earthquake that went on and on. It was about a minute and a half. We had finished our Easter meal and were hanging it when it began to roll. I often wonder if there was any cosmic relevance to that quake.

For thousands of years people did their best to explain what earthquakes meant. In Greek mythology, earthquakes occurred when the hot-tempered god of the sea, Poseidon, struck the ground with his trident. In a Native American tradition, earthquakes were the result of the Great Spirit stomping his foot. In Mexico, the devil rips open the earth so demons can escape and cause trouble on earth. In Hawaiian folklore, the demigod Maui pulled the islands out from the ocean, and sometimes a part gets loose, shaking the ground.

Earthquakes even occur in the Bible. An earthquake shakes the foundation of a prison in Acts 16. The earth shakes when God appears before Elijah in 1 Kings 19. An earthquake, or a sinkhole, swallows the homes of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram in Numbers 16. The earth even shakes when Jesus dies on the Cross (Matthew 27). But my favorite earthquake story in the Bible happens on that first Easter Sunday, when an angel of the Lord descended from heaven to roll back the stone from the tomb and sat on it (Matthew 28:2). The earth shook when Christ died, as if to say all was not right, but then the earth shook again on Easter, seemingly to indicate not only are things right, but things are now different, and better.

I still wonder what, if anything, that earthquake on April 4, 2010, Easter Sunday meant. Did something cosmic happen that day? What happens if there is an earthquake this Easter?

Your earthquake experiencing Pastor,  
Paul



**Youth Winter Camp**

**Big Bear**

**March 15 - 17**

**Sign-Up:**

[Bigbearlakechristianconferencecenter.com](http://Bigbearlakechristianconferencecenter.com)



## The Next Chapter



I have heard different terms for what is referred to as a “Faith Journey.” As I look back, I have definitely been on a journey. More than a journey, however, my life in faith seems more like a *series of chapters* in a book, each with a different theme.

In my twenties, I was a youth leader, bravely driving a 15-passenger van full of junior high-aged kids up to Big Bear to stay the weekend. That was a fun chapter and only one of many opportunities over the years where God has allowed me to experience faith and the love he has for his children.

A few years ago, God opened a new chapter for me called “Family Promise.” This continues to be an eye-opening and rewarding chapter where I am regularly humbled and challenged. In my current chapter, I am called to serve as a *Deacon*, something else I have not done before. I am eager to see what God has written for me in this chapter because he has shown me that I can trust him to be the author of *all* the chapters in my life.

“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.” Jeremiah 29:11

Lisa MacDougall

# RIVERSIDE CROP HUNGER WALK

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17th, 1:30PM**


*Meet at First United Methodist Church at 4845 Brockton Avenue.*

*We walk one mile to Trinity Lutheran Church & then return to the start.*

*Bring water/sunscreen/hat*

*Join the Magnolia Presbyterian Church team - walk and donate!*

**Sign-Up: [MagPres.com/cropwalk](https://MagPres.com/cropwalk)**



**"Rising from the Ashes"  
New Building Fundraiser**

**Save the Date!!**

**WHEN:** Wed. March 27th  
**WHERE:** Californina Pizza Kitchen  
308 Riverside Plaza Dr.  
(located in the Riverside Plaza)  
**TIME:** Join us for lunch or dinner  
Dine In or Take Out



## THANK YOU FROM FAMILY PROMISE!

A huge thank you to Mag Pres for all your support for Family Promise!

In 2023, with contributions from Mag Pres, additional congregations and donors we were able to:

- ♦ Move 10 families into permanent housing (including 26 kiddos who now have a bed to sleep in)
- ♦ Assist 25 families (for a total of 68 individuals including kiddos and adults) with a variety of needs
- ♦ Enroll 35 kiddos in school

Mag Pres members and friends provided:

- ♦ Space for our day center
- ♦ 133 dinners
- ♦ Volunteers for 70 nights at the overnight shelter
- ♦ Help in moving shelter locations
- ♦ New clothes for all the school age kids for the start of the new school year
- ♦ Monetary support through Mission funds (Christmas party with new shoes for all the kids in the shelter and graduate families and gas gift cards for the parents) and the Deacon's fund
- ♦ Many personal donations of love, prayer, time and treasure

We have many stories to share of how your love transformed families' lives – here are just two of the many:

- ♦ A young woman whose hard exterior was softened by the patience and kindness of Mag Pres member BJ – the young woman began to trust once she experienced BJ's love and acceptance for herself and young child.
- ♦ A family with 4 young children were blessed with gifts selected by a gentleman Mag Pres member with each of the 4 children specifically in mind – the oldest child fondly refers to this caring and generous man as her “oldest friend”.

THANK YOU MAG PRES FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Claire Jefferson-Glipa and Gabie Darrow  
Family Promise of Riverside



# 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](mailto:music@magpres.com)

**WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY:** Led by Laurie Mordue on Monday mornings at 9:30a.m. Join us in the Library for a relaxing time to delve into Scripture, prayer, 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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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: 59885602 Password: 7200**

## STANDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ACCESS WORSHIP ONLINE:** You can participate in worship by going to [magpres.com/watch](https://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. 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, 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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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](mailto:Church@MagPres.com) and let us know your possible availability (best days of the week & times). Thank you!!



## Remember Your Offerings

### 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](http://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.

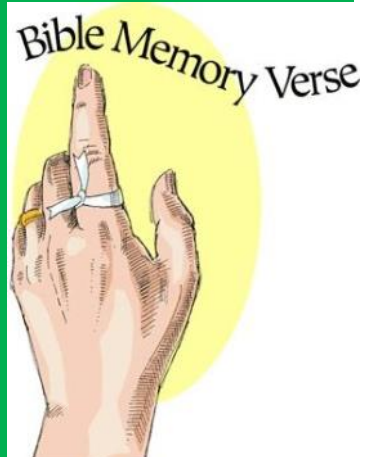
Sunday School includes Bible lessons, songs, crafts, and play time

Our memory verse for March is **Matthew 21:9**

***Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!***

For more advanced Bible scholars, the full verse is:

***The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"***



**DON'T FORGET...**

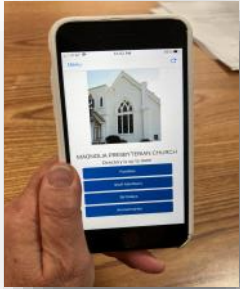
Mag Café will be available every Sunday in March following the 10:00a.m. Worship Service. Join us in the Fireside Room for Java and Treats... and stay for the Fellowship & Conversation!



### CHURCH DIRECTORY...ONLINE!

View our directory online or via the FREE mobile app.

Go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](https://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)).



JOIN US FOR  
EASTER SERVICE ON  
SUNDAY,  
MARCH 31st,  
10AM

Please join us for the youth Egg-Hunt following the Worship Service. Donations of filled eggs will be appreciated and can be dropped off now in the office or at Sunday Service.





...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



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

**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 **148** items! Thank you all for your generosity!

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



Sunday nights from 6-8 p.m.  
for both Middle School (grades 6-8)  
and High School (9-12) students.

Mar 3	Meeting
Mar 10	Meeting
Mar 17	Winter Camp
Mar 24	Meeting TBD
Mar 31	Easter / Egg hunt
	<b><u>NO</u> Evening Meeting</b>

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



## March 2024 Prayer Calendar

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
					<b>1</b> Adam Martinez	<b>2</b> Steve & Jan McKee
<b>3</b> Worship Committee	<b>4</b> the McLaughlin/Sachs family	<b>5</b> Laura Medrano	<b>6</b> Bobby & Kriss Menosky	<b>7</b> Lance & Laurie Mordue	<b>8</b> Monique Lowry	<b>9</b> the Na family
<b>10</b> Nominating Committee	<b>11</b> Brian & Melanie Nelson	<b>12</b> Christopher Nelson	<b>13</b> Makenzie Nelson	<b>14</b> Donna Nelson	<b>15</b> Chris & Sherry Nettles	<b>16</b> Zach Ni
<b>17</b> the CROP Walk	<b>18</b> the Nicholson family	<b>19</b> Judy O'Bier	<b>20</b> Tessa & Daniel Paredes	<b>21</b> Jane Peden	<b>22</b> the Perez family	<b>23</b> Ron & Cornelia Phifer
<b>24</b> Riverside Presbytery	<b>25</b> Gary & Pat Platner	<b>26</b> Clarke & Jeanette Prescott	<b>27</b> Rosie Quinoñes	<b>28</b> Charles & Carolyn Raughley	<b>29</b> the Reidman family	<b>30</b> John & Sharon Reinhardt
<b>31</b> the World						



### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



### March Birthdays

Ray Ward	1st	Adrineh Spring-Pearson	9th	Gary Platner	16th
Lucas Wynsma	2nd	Ann Lowry	9th	Eleanor Miller	17th
Mary Lee	3rd	Pat Platner	9th	John Reinhardt	23rd
Nicholas French	4th	Janet Doshier	12th	Kathy Cohen	26th
Jackson Duncan	6th	James Goulet-Perez	12th	Amanda Schlegel	28th
Allison Manley	7th	Marcus Goulet-Perez	12th	Michelle Manley	29th

### March Anniversaries

Karn & Suzanne Griffen	1st	Chris & Marge Cox	11th	Tim & Diana Lewis	22nd
Dick & Bonnie Kirby	3rd	Bev & King Williams	15th	Bob & Lee Lewis	28th
		Clarke & Jeanette Prescott	17th		

# March 2024 MagPres Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	2 9:30am - EEEAC
3 10am - Communion Sunday 10am - Deacon Door Offering 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 6pm - Youth Group Meeting	4 9:30am - Women's Bible Study 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop 16	5 6pm - CE Cmte. 6:30pm - FOM Cmte. 7pm - BaG Cmte. 7pm - Mission Cmte.	6 7pm - Choir Practice	7	8 Office Closed 11am - Tolson Funeral 5pm - EEEAC	9 9:30am - EEEAC 4pm - Path of Life Meal Prep and
10 10am - TWO-CAN Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 6pm - Youth Group Meeting	11 9:30am - Women's Bible Study 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop 16	12 6pm - Worship Cmte 7pm - Stew_Fin Cmte	13 7pm - Choir Practice	14	15 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	16 9:30am - EEEAC
17 Crop Walk 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 6pm - Youth Group Meeting	18 9am UpLook Mat'ls Due 9:30am - Women's Bible Study 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop 16	19 7pm - Deacon Meeting	20 Session Mat'ls Due 9am 7pm - Choir Practice	21	22 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	23 9:30am - EEEAC
24 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 6pm - Youth Group Meeting	25 9:30am - Women's Bible Study 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop 16	26 7pm - Session Meeting	27 Cap Campaign CPK Fundraiser 7pm - Choir Practice	28 6pm - Maundy Thursday Supper 7pm - Maundy Thursday Service	29 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	30 9:30am - EEEAC
31 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 11:30am - Youth Egg-Hunt						