



Magnolia Presbyterian Church

The UpLook

MARCH 2026

WORSHIP SERVICE ~ Sundays @ 10:00am - in person and online
COMMUNION & DEACON OFFERING ~ 1st Sunday of the month
CROSSWAYS BIBLE STUDY ~ Meeting online Thurs. 7pm-8:45pm
SPRING WORK PARTY ~ Fri. Mar. 6th, 1-5pm, Sat. Mar. 7th, 9-12pm
TWO-CAN SUNDAY ~ Mar. 8th - Food Donations collected for LSS
LUNCH & LEARN POTATO BAR/POTLUCK ~ Mar. 15th - 11:15am
CROP HUNGER WALK ~ Sun. Mar. 22nd , 1:15PM 1st United Methodist



PASTOR'S PONDERING



"Then Jesus was up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished...Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him." ~Matthew 4:1-2, 11

Lent is one of my favorite times of the year. I'm not crazy, I just enjoy food, and some of my favorite food items go on sale. There is a Hawaiian restaurant around the corner that offers a discount on its fish plate. There is a fast food restaurant that offers a deal on shrimp and fish tacos. Another fast-food restaurant discounts its fish sandwiches on Fridays. Lent is fantastic if you eat out and like seafood.

But Lent isn't about meal discounts. Lent traditionally commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness. Throughout history, Lent was the season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. They would study Jesus' life and teachings before deciding to become followers of Jesus. In some ways, we are doing the same this Lent.

Our sermon series this Lent, "Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent," focuses on Jesus' life and teachings. We'll explore the feeding of the 5,000, the blessing of children, the woman caught in adultery, the triumphal entry, the washing of the disciples' feet, and the Resurrection on Easter. All of these brought light to a darkened world. And our TVs and devices remind us of how dark a world we live in. But Jesus brings good news.

This Lent, as we explore the good news of God that has burst into and continues to penetrate our fractured and broken world, may we not only experience the good news ourselves but also share it with others. While Lent is a season of preparation, repentance, and penitence, we can also celebrate it as a season of hope and joy because God is good. So this Lent, let's not only explore good news, let's share it too.

Your Lent-loving and good-news embracing Pastor,
Paul

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

March 2026

Worship

Why the word Worship? The January and February Session meetings looked and felt just a bit different. Pastor Paul is trying a new approach to make the work of the Session more “worshipful,” and “shifting the culture from a board to spiritual leaders.” There is still the business portion of the meeting which includes reports from the Deacons, the Clerk of Session, Presbytery, Pastor Paul, and the Standing Committees. In this new format, there is also Lighting of the Christ Candle, Hymn singing, and Prayers for and with each other.

*“So, here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You’re my God!”*

Here I Am to Worship ~ written by Tim Hughes

Melanie Nelson ~ Clerk of Session

WINTER CAMP ✝

@ BIG BEAR LAKE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

WORSHIP - GAMES - FUN

WARM HEARTS, RENEWED SPIRITS

MARCH 13TH - 15TH | **572 PRAIRIE LANE**
CHECK-IN @ 3PM-6PM | **BIG BEAR LAKE, CA 92315**

\$165 PER CAMPER

WWW.BBLCCC.COM

Family Promise of Riverside

4TH ANNUAL KARAOKE FUNDRAISER

OPPORTUNITY DRAWINGS
FUN SILENT AUCTION FOOD

MARCH 27 ~ 6PM TO 11PM

\$40 EARLY BIRD (THRU 2/28)
\$50 (3/1 - 3/27)
\$55 AT THE DOOR

READY TO TAKE THE STAGE & UNLEASH YOUR INNER SUPERSTAR?

Join us for our **4th Annual Karaoke Fundraiser**. Grab the mic, gather your crew, and belt out your favorite hits as we raise money to support unhoused children and their families.

ROUTE 30 BREWING CO.

ROUTE 30 BREWING | 11620 STERLING AVE, STE C RIVERSIDE

On a MISSION...

RIVERSIDE CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, March 22nd 1:15 pm



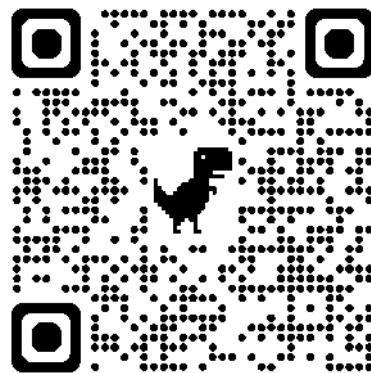
Join Magnolia Presbyterian Church in fighting hunger here in Riverside and around the world! If we work together, we can end world hunger, That's why we're participating in the 2026 Crop Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. Please join us with your steps and your donations. Together we will provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them and create greater food security in communities around the world.

- ◆ Meet at First United Methodist Church at 4845 Brockton Avenue. We walk one mile along Brockton Avenue to Trinity Lutheran Church – grab a water bottle and then return to the start.
- ◆ Wear your Crop Walk t-shirt - bring hat/sunscreen.

Join the Magnolia Presbyterian Church team – walk and/or donate! Can't join in the walk – donate to support Team Mag Pres!

Donate online or by check to CWS/Crop.
To Sign-Up/Donate: Scan QR Code >>>

Questions? See Kris Shea or Mary Lee
(call/text Mary at 951-285-3450)





Reflections On A Labyrinth ~ By Holly Goulet Perez ~

Being a highly distractible person (maybe undiagnosed adhd?), labyrinths have always appealed to me as aides for focus during prayer time. I've wanted to build one for years. It was during the late part of August when I finally decided to finally build one. As I was building it and, later, as I used it, I noticed some parallels with spiritual life.

I had always admired labyrinths that I have seen in person and in pictures, but except for the simplest patterns, they seemed to me to be tricky to duplicate. Luckily, as labyrinths have gained public interest, many helpful websites and videos have popped up over the years, such as this one: [How to Draw Precise 7-Circuit Classical & Chartres Labyrinths!](#) This You Tube video helped me see away how I could use concentric circles and then edit them to make the path. I decided upon my outdoor materials for the project: stainless steel u stakes and black, polyester-type rope (similar to the type used to make a laundry line). I needed two tools: strong scissors and a rubber mallet.

We live in a part of Riverside County where the houses are spread far apart and built within steep hills. All the homes in this area are on septic systems, and our leech lines run deep down, all the way down the entire front yard, so it has always been a challenge to figure out how to landscape this area. We had been pondering this for the 12 years we have lived here, and finally it suddenly came to me to make a prayer garden that would include an easy to build labyrinth and moveable potted plants.

As I worked on the labyrinth, I began to see some spiritual parallels. The video made the process seem simple, but it took much longer than I thought it would and was somewhat labor intensive. It was hot outside, so I thought it would be easier to make the circles in the air-conditioned house and then take them outside to pound into the ground in the cooler part of the day. I thought this project would take about a day, but both the indoor and outdoor stages took about a week each of about an hour or two a day. It was more physically laborious than I thought it would be, as I needed to pound about a hundred stakes in the ground to hold the rope circles in place. After becoming aware that this was not going to be a one-day project and that it involved more physical endurance than I had realized, I had to pay attention to my mind and body to know when it was time to take breaks. I had to be patient and diligent with the process, as it is often so with spiritual understanding. I was satisfied and joyful upon completion, as we often are as we learn and grow, acquiring more spiritual abilities and endurance, and as we hope to be when we complete our earthly journey and transition to complete communion with God.

We need to wait through these current wetter conditions and for enough time of dry weather so that we can go at the weeds again. I know a labyrinth is not absolutely necessary for my daily prayer time or to partake in the solemn Lent and glorious Easter, but I do miss the focus it provides. Perhaps a good lent project would be to use a garden hoe to reveal the labyrinth again and get back on the path.

...Continued on page 4

DEACON'S DESK CONTINUED...

Using a labyrinth is allegorical to spiritual life. Many types of labyrinths are designed in such a way that, as you walk, you come to parts of the journey where you think you are almost finished, but then the path turns and seems to suddenly take you farther away from the exit; such is spiritual life, often. We have to just keep going on the path and be patient for the resolution. One common labyrinth method is to pray upon a situation as you journey toward the center of the labyrinth and then think about any revelations as you walk back toward the exit. For me, sometimes one trip is not enough, and I will turn around at the exit to complete another journey, and I may repeat this until either I receive a revelation or a sense of peace that the situation is in God's hands. Sometimes I will not know what to pray about during a labyrinth walk. During those times, I may repeat the Lord's Prayer or sing a hymn or praise song or focus on one bible verse. When I think about the challenge of making and using a labyrinth, it reminds me of James 1:2-4

"Consider it pure joy whenever you face trails of many kinds because you know the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

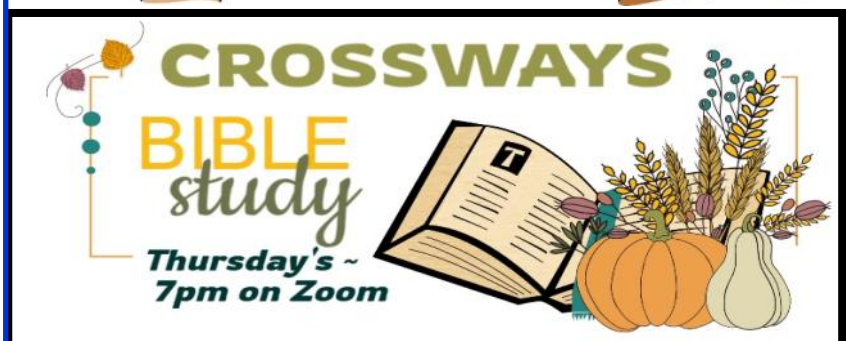
I must admit that during the last few months, I have not been using the labyrinth. Once the holidays set in, beginning with Halloween, and through Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and Valentine's Day, I have been a busy decorator and celebrator. Daily prayer time has become an indoor activity, and it has become a bit shorter and sometimes forgotten, as I have been distracted by activities, celebrations, and family concerns. After the autumn rains, the labyrinth became completely obscured by weeds. Our warm weather earlier this winter dried out the plants enough so that Ken could go at them with the weedwhacker. Either the battery or time ran out, so now the labyrinth is only half visible. We need to wait through these current wetter conditions and for enough time of dry weather so that we can go at the weeds again. I know a labyrinth is not absolutely necessary for my daily prayer time or to partake in the solemn Lent and glorious Easter, but I do miss the focus it provides. Perhaps a good lent project would be to use a garden hoe to reveal the labyrinth again and get back on the path.

~ By Holly Goulet Perez, Deacon

SUN. MARCH 15th ~ 11:15am

LUNCH-N-LEARN

POTATO BAR / POTLUCK



SUNDAY SCHOOL

for children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade is offered In-Person and via Zoom during our 10:00am. worship service. In-person children will meet in Rm 8 and Nursery in Rm 9 at 10:20am. To join the fun via Zoom simply sign in to Zoom and use the Meeting ID: 259885602 and the Password 7200. Sunday School includes: Bible lessons, Songs, crafts, and play time.



MARCH MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 13:34

I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other.

SHORTENED PASSAGE:

Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other.

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY ~ FEB. 22nd



The children learned the parable of the sower and then had fun planting seeds to make their own garden.



MAG PRES YOUTH

CALLING ALL YOUTH !!!

Link to Magpres Youth Group BAND APP [Band Invite]

Accept the invite and join the group to see what youth events are coming up!

<https://band.us/n/aaabb9S0Pab6w>

REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

CHILDREN / YOUTH PERMISSION FORMS

Do you have a child/youth? We are accepting updated Student Permission forms for the 2025-2026 school year. To download a form please visit www.magpres.com/permission

Contact Michelle Knopf or Jason Robinson if you have any questions

CHOIR PRACTICE: Meets Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the choir room

SCOUT TROOP 16: Meets Monday nights at 6:45pm in the Fireside Room. Our Charter Organization Rep is Tim Lewis (webelewis@gmail.com).

YOUTH GROUP: meets on Sunday from 11:30-1:30 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 8 and via Zoom. Nursery is in Room 9. If you would like to connect on zoom, please use this link: **Meeting ID 559885602 Password:7200**

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!)*



STANDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, 9:00am - 3:00pm (closed 12-1pm). 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" (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 neighbor.

MagPres March 2026 Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 10am - Communion Sunday 10am - Deacon Offering 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School | 2 6:45pm - Scouts - Troop 16 | 3 6pm - CE Cmte. 6:30pm - FOM Cmte. 7pm - BaG Cmte. 7pm - Mission Cmte. | 4 7pm - Choir Rehearsal | 5 7pm - Crossways Bible Study | 6 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC 1pm Spring Work Party | 7 9:30am - EEEAC 9am Spring Work Party |
| 8 10am - TWO-CAN Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 1pm - Scouts Eagle Cer. FH | 9 6:45pm - Scouts - Troop 16 | 10 6pm - Worship Cmte 7pm - Stew_Fin Cmte | 11 7pm - Choir Rehearsal | 12 7pm - Crossways Bible Study | 13 Office Closed Youth Winter Camp 13th-15th 5pm - EEEAC | 14 9:30am - EEEAC 4pm - Path of Life Meal Prep / Serve |
| 15 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11:15am - Lunch&Learn Potluck | 16 9am UpLook Mat'ls Due 6:45pm - Scouts - Troop 16 | 17 7pm - Deacon Meeting | 18 Session Mat'ls Due 9am 7pm - Choir Rehearsal | 19 7pm - Crossways Bible Study | 20 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC | 21 9:30am - EEEAC |
| 22 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 1pm - CROP HUNGER WALK | 23 6:45pm - Scouts - Troop 16 | 24 7pm - Session Meeting | 25 7pm - Choir Rehearsal | 26 7pm - Crossways Bible Study | 27 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC | 28 9:30am - EEEAC |
| 29 Palm Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School | 30 6:45pm - Scouts - Troop 16 | 31 | 1 7pm - Choir Rehearsal | 2 | 3 Good Friday Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC | 4 9:30am - EEEAC |

MARCH PRAYER CALENDAR

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|---|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 Riverside Community Hospital | 2 Judy O'Bier | 3 The Paredes Family | 4 Jane Peden | 5 Ron & Comelia Phifer | 6 Gary & Pat Platner | 7 The Rev. Clarke & Jeanette Prescott |
| 8 Stew & Fin Committee | 9 Rosie Quinones | 10 Charles & Carolyn Raughley | 11 Mel & Rhonda Rehnke | 12 The Reinhardt Family | 13 Dave & Sandy Richards | 14 Jean Riggs |
| 15 First Presbyterian Church | 16 The Robinson Family | 17 Tom & Lauren Rogers | 18 The Roman Family | 19 Betty Rosenthal | 20 Beverly Rounsaville | 21 Tom & Kathy Safford |
| 22 Lutheran Social Services | 23 Amanda Schlegel | 24 Julianne Schlegel | 25 Claire Schlegel | 26 Evelyn Shea | 27 Kris Shea | 28 Saw Shein |



BIRTHDAYS

2nd Lucas Wynsma
 3rd Mary Lee
 4th Nicholas French
 6th Jackson Duncan
 9th Ann Lowry
 9th Pat Platner
 9th Adrineh Spring-Pearson
 12th Janet Doshier
 12th James Goulet-Perez
 12th Marcus Goulet-Perez

16th Gary Platner
 17th Eleanor Miller
 23rd John Reinhardt
 26th Kathy Cohen
 28th Amanda Schlegel



ANNIVERSARIES

1st The Rev. Karn & Suzanne Griffen
 3rd Dick & Bonnie Kirby
 17th The Rev. Clarke & Jeanette Prescott
 22nd Tim & Diana Lewis
 28th Bob & Lee Lewis