



Magnolia Presbyterian Church

The UpLook

MAY 2025

COMMUNION & DEACON OFFERING - First Sunday of the month ~ Sunday, May 4th
TWO-CAN SUNDAY - Non-perishable food collection for LSS ~ Sunday, May 11th
MOTHER'S DAY - Sunday, May 11th
MAGPRES CHURCH PICNIC - Sunday, May 18th
CPK BUILDING FUNDRAISER - Monday, May 19th. 11am-10pm
PROGRESSIVE DINNER - Saturday, June 21st

A PASTOR'S PONDERING

In February, I had the privilege of talking with a cub scout pack about Christianity and gave a brief Christian History lesson, via chips. I had with me a variety pack box of chips, and of course the young men in this pack were interested in hearing about chips. Here's a summary of what I told them.

A long time ago, someone took corn tortillas and left it in the sun too long, or fired them up, and made tortilla chips. These were the original chips. How many of you like tortilla chips? Over time, they made some changes to them: they changed shapes (triangles, strips, scoops) and added flavoring (like doritos or flaming hot) among other changes. And for a long time and for a lot of people, tortilla chips were the chip of choice.

Later in time, someone created potato chips. And now, people had a choice between potato chips and tortilla chips, and a lot of people liked potato chips better. How many of you like potato chips? Over time, they made some changes to them: they changed shapes (made some wavy like ruffles) and added flavoring (like sour cream and onion, or cheddar, or flaming hot). Now, some people swore that potato chips were the best.

Later in time, someone made extruded chips (like cheetos or pringles or funyuns). Do you know what extruded is? It passes through a small opening with significant force, squeezing together and making the desired shape (one of the cubbies offered another example of extrusion which is not appropriate to repeat, but was spot on). And they came in different shapes and flavors. And some people liked the extruded chips best. Anyone like cheetos or funyuns?

Think of the original, the OG chips, as the Roman Catholic Church. It was there first, and for a long time was the only option available. And today, many people still prefer the tortilla chip. Over time, there were some changes, but no matter the changes, it was always a tortilla chip. Later in time (around 1000 AD), the Orthodox church split off from the Roman Catholic Church, represented by the Potato Chips. And over time, there were some changes, but it was always a potato chip. Later in time (around 1500 AD), came the protestant reformation, represented by the extruded chips. Even though there are significant differences, they're all extruded.

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OFFICE HOURS
Mon. -Thur. 9am-3pm
Closed Lunch 12pm-1pm
Closed Friday's

Closed Mon. April 26th
for Memorial Day

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At the March Session meeting, for the Devotional, Elder Heather Dickenson reflected on the Spring equinox and quoted author Octavia E. Butler: “There is nothing alien about nature. Nature is all that exists. It’s the earth and all that’s on it. It’s the universe and all that’s in it. It’s God, never at rest.”



She then read a devotion by Anne Pypers: “God made his creation with intention, craftsmanship, functionality, and beauty. By enjoying His creation we are reminded of His promises. God is always present, faithful, and good. Nature reminds us to slow down and delight in the details our creator has made. It allows us to be still and know that he is God and he is with us. (Psalm 46:10). The next time you need a simple reminder of God’s promises, look for God’s presence surrounding you. He created the world to point us to Him. Find God’s goodness, be filled, and find rest and peace in whom He has called you to be. Go outside and DELIGHT in the details our maker has put into His creation. Spring is a time where it is easy to see God’s beauty. Delight in the flowers that are bringing forth life, go see a sunset, go for a walk or a hike, watch the birds, and feel the sun on your face. Experience the peace that will wash over you. Remember that God loves you and he is always near to us no matter what season of life we are in.”

“That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.”

Psalms 1:3

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session

A Pastor’s Pondering ...Continued from Page 1

Me, I like funyuns (which I identified as Presbyterian). I like the flavor, shape, and everything about it. You might like cheetos (which I identified as Lutherans) or Sun Chips (which I called Methodists) or cheese balls (Baptists), or hippeas (Congregationalists). An adult then shared that when they were young, they didn’t like chips, but when they became an adult, they tried fritos (pentecostal), then tried cheese balls (baptist), and right now were liking cheetos (Lutheran) (I should tell you that this conversation took place at a Lutheran church). At the end, I invited each cub scout to choose which bag of chips they wanted and they were able to enjoy their chip of choice.

Here’s the thing: my claim of liking funyuns doesn’t diminish your preference for tortilla chips or another’s preference for potato chips. There are enough chips in this world that everyone can choose their favorite, without disparaging someone else’s chip preference. And in the end, we’re all happy because we all get our chip of choice.

Our preference for being Presbyterian doesn’t diminish another’s desire to be Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist, or anything else. What is important is that we embrace what we feel called to embrace. In the end, we’re all chips, or in this case, Christians or Christ followers.

Along that vein, there is an interfaith National Day of Prayer taking place on May 1st at 6:30pm at the Culver Center of the Arts (3834 Main St), that includes not only the chips (Christians) but also the cereals (Muslim), sandwiches (Buddhist), plate lunches (Baha’i), and other food items that make up the diversity of Riverside. If you feel led to attend and to pray for our nation and community, I hope you will attend.

Your funyun preferencing pastor,
Paul

May is Mental Health Month

Understanding Mental Health Through History and Modern Times

Jesus Casting Out of Demons

The accounts of Jesus casting out demons are among the most compelling stories in the New Testament. These narratives, found in books such as Matthew, Mark, and Luke, describe instances where Jesus healed individuals possessed by malevolent spirits. One of the most famous accounts is the Gerasene Demoniac, where Jesus encounters a man beset by a legion of demons and casts them into a herd of swine. These accounts, while profoundly spiritual, can also be seen as reflections of the ancient understanding of mental illness, attributing psychological disturbances to supernatural causes.

Theories Around Mental Illness

Historical Perspectives

Throughout history, the understanding of mental illness has evolved significantly. Ancient civilizations often attributed mental health issues to supernatural forces or divine punishment. In the Middle Ages, mental illness was frequently associated with witchcraft or demonic possession, leading to inhumane treatments for those afflicted.

Modern Theories

Today's theories around mental illness are grounded in scientific research and psychological study. The biopsychosocial model, for instance, suggests that mental health disorders are the result of a complex interplay between biological, psychological, and social factors. Advances in neuroscience have also shed light on the chemical and structural abnormalities in the brain that contribute to conditions such as depression, anxiety, and schizophrenia.

References

The Holy Bible, New Testament

For instance, in the book of Matthew 4:24, it is recorded, "News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them." This passage reflects a time when ailments, both physical and mental, were seen through a lens that often linked them to spiritual or demonic influence.

Another relevant scripture is Mark 5:15, which states, "When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid." This verse underscores the transformation from distress to serenity, a transition that modern mental health treatments aim to achieve through therapeutic and medical interventions.

- ◆ American Psychiatric Association. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)
- ◆ National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- ◆ World Health Organization (WHO)
- ◆ Freud, S. (1917). Introductory Lectures on Psycho-Analysis
- ◆ Beck, A. T. (1976). Cognitive Therapy and the Emotional Disorders
- ◆ Aquinas, Thomas. (Summa Theologica)
- ◆ Calvin, John. (Institutes of the Christian Religion)



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PIZZA WITH A PURPOSE



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pizza kitchen.

Show this flyer or mention the organization listed below on your visit, and California Pizza Kitchen will **DONATE 20% OF ALL FOOD & BEVERAGE SALES** on your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine-in, take-out, catering, and online orders at CPK.com when you enter **BACK20%** at checkout.

Fundraiser in support of:

Magnolia Presbyterian Church
Rising from the Ashes Campaign
05/19/2025 11AM - 10PM

Valid at the following location

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN

Riverside Plaza suite 308
3540 Riverside CA, 92506

Scan to view menu and order



Fundraiser valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location(s) identified on this flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in CPK's fundraiser program. CPK will donate 20% (twenty percent) of all food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Valid for dine-in, takeout, online, catering, curbside or delivery orders placed directly with CPK. Not valid for orders placed or fulfilled through third-party delivery. Void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the fundraiser, please contact the organization directly. Not valid at franchise locations in Guam, stadium, university, international, airport locations, or the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino.

BAG COMMITTEE

The Buildings and Grounds Committee extends a gracious thank you to the 21 members and friends who gathered on a Spring Saturday morning for fixing, cleaning, trimming, carpet laying, general upkeep, and fellowship! It was the best turnout in a while and much was accomplished. **BAG is GRATEFUL!!!**



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. 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.

MAY memory verse: Acts 2:47

"They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone."

Full Passage:

"They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved."

INTERGENERATIONAL V.B.S.

This summer at Magnolia Presbyterian Church

We're diving into God's Word
with stories, games, crafts, and food!

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
June 10, 11, and 12 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Open to adults and children of all ages

Dinner will be provided

Sign up at magpres.com/vbs
by 6/5 to reserve your spot



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

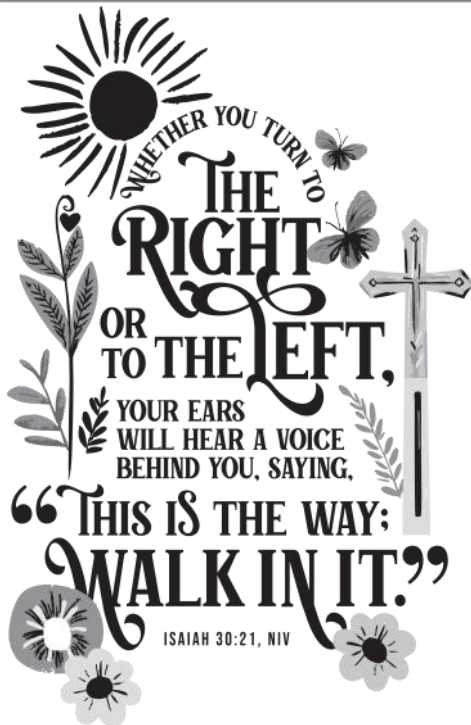
BANK: Set-up one-time or recurring donations with your bank bill pay

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

U.S. MAIL: Send check via US Mail to our address at

7200 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504

REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH



CHILDREN/YOUTH PERMISSION FORMS

Do you have a child/youth? We are accepting updated Student Permission forms for the 2024-2025 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 7:00pm 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.

Mental Health Month and How We Can Help

Mental Health Month, observed every May, is a time to raise awareness about mental health issues and reduce the stigma surrounding them. This month-long campaign encourages individuals to educate themselves about mental health, seek help if needed, and support others who may be struggling.

Ways to Help

Attend the Mental Health Workshop May 3rd, 10AM- 12:30 PM for an overview of mental health illnesses that are the most seen in our local community. This program is not religiously affiliated.

- ◆ Be Supportive: Offer a listening ear to friends or family members who are dealing with mental health issues. Sometimes, simply being present can make a significant difference.
- ◆ Promote Awareness: Share information about mental health on social media or participate in local awareness events.
- ◆ Advocate for Better Policies: Support legislation that aims to improve mental health care services and access.
- ◆ Encourage Professional Help: If someone you know is struggling, encourage them to seek help from a mental health professional.
- ◆ By understanding the historical context of mental health, embracing modern theories and treatments, and actively participating in awareness and support efforts, we can help create a more compassionate and informed society.



Understanding Per Capita

Every year, there is an envelope near the front of each set of offering envelopes marked "per capita." Some may wonder what it is or why it is included.

An article in "Presbyterian Today" (November, 2021) describes per capita giving as the resource that "fuels the machinery of doing church the Presbyterian way" – which is in a connected way. This idea is based on 1 Corinthians 12:12 - "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."

Unlike independent churches and non-connectional denominations, Presbyterians share a unique connectedness of all its churches through different levels of governing bodies, called presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly. These provide support in many areas of leadership, decision making, and accountability. They assist individual churches in such areas as legal matters, financial management, leadership, and mission. They are also an invaluable source of support when a church is in crisis.

Magnolia has been blessed by our presbytery several times in recent years. They have guided our Pastor Nominating Committee that helped hire Pastor Paul, helped us organize our capital campaign and provided a grant to help with the rebuilding of our sanctuary after the fire, and worked with our committee on stewardship alignment across the church. They are the central network that keeps us in community with the other Presbyterian churches in our area, giving us opportunities to interact with and support each other.

Our per capita offerings make all of this possible. This year, the amount assessed is \$44 per church member or \$8,096 total for our church. The church, as of March 30th, has received \$2,170. Thank you for your continuing support. If you have not yet paid per capita and this is something you would like to do, it would be much appreciated. Praise God that we have the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful backup support system. - The Stewardship and Finance Committee

...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 9:00am-3:00pm
Closed 12-1pm Lunch
Closed Friday



**Magnolia Presbyterian
Church Staff**

The Rev. Paul Knopf
Pastor

Lisa Gulino
Administrative Assistant

John Wright
Choral Director

Cynthia Wright
Pianist/Accompanist

Allison Robinson
Nursery Attendant

Jaeson Robinson
Youth Leader

Robbie Yates,
Audio-Video Tech

Michelle Knopf,
CE Leader

MAY 11th

Every 2nd Sunday of the month MagPres collects non-perishable food donations for Lutheran Social Services local food distribution. Last month we collected over **262** items! Thank you all for your generosity!

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



SAVE THE DATE!

**MAGPRES
CHURCH
PICNIC**

May 18th



MagPres May 2025 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				12pm - Thursday Midday Bible 6:30pm - Interfaith Day of Prayer	Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC 10am - Mental Health Workshop
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am - Communion Sunday 10am - Deacon Offering 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday	7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	6pm - CE Cmte. 6:30pm - FOM Cmte. 7pm - BaG Cmte. 7pm - Mission Cmte.	7pm - Choir Practice		Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC 4pm - Path of Life Meal Prep and
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am - TWO-CAN Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday	7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	6pm - Worship Cmte 7pm - Stew_Fin Cmte	7pm - Choir Practice		Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Church Picnic 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday	9am UpLook Mat'ls Due CPK - Bldg. Fundraiser 11am-9pm 7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	7pm - Deacon Meeting	Session Mat'ls Due 9am 7pm - Choir Practice		Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday	Memorial Day - Office Closed 7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	7pm - Session Meeting	7pm - Choir Practice		Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC

MAY 2025 PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Alma Vierich	2 James & Susan Walters	5 Ray and Loretta Ward
6 Riverside Police Dept.	7 Margie Watson	8 John Wayne	9 Linda Welman	10 The Williams Family	11 Kit and Dee Wilson	12 John & Cynthia Wright
13 CE Committee	14 Saw Shein	15 Diane Sieckmann	16 Roger & Susan Simmons	17 The Sindaha Family	18 Bob & Carla Smith	19 Phil & Sally Smith
20 Victoria Presbyterian	21 Brenda Wynsma	22 Lucas Wynsma	23 Carol Young	24 John & Beth Zarecki	25 The Zwart/Skipper Family	26 Lance & JoAnn Alford
27 Hulen Center	28 Rick & Colleen Allert	29 The Anderson Family	30 Ken Anderson			



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



May Birthdays

David King	1st	Janet Field	13th	Judy O'Bier	21st
Marge Ludwig	1st	Cole Gettis	14th	Sharon Reinhardt	22nd
JoAnn Alford	2nd	Mark Brooks	15th	Anderson Duncan	25th
Melissa Holden	2nd	Caitlin Keovilay	17th	Marshall Lee	29th
Loretta Ward	2nd	Krista Zwart	17th	Brenda Wynsma	30th
Dorothy McLaughlin/Sachs	10th	Konrad Reidman	18th	Neil Cohen	31st
Tessa Islas-Paredes	11th	Donna Crossen	19th		

May Anniversaries

David & Claudia King	5th	Dave & Sandy Richards	25th	David & Margey Crowley	30th
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