



Magnolia Presbyterian Church

The UpLook

MAY 2026

WORSHIP SERVICE ~ Sundays @ 10:00am - in person and online
COMMUNION & DEACON OFFERING ~ 1st Sunday of the month
TWO-CAN SUNDAY ~ May 10th - Food donations collected for LSS Pantry
CROSSWAYS BIBLE STUDY ~ Meeting online Thursdays @ 7pm
CHURCH PICNIC ~ Sunday, May 24th

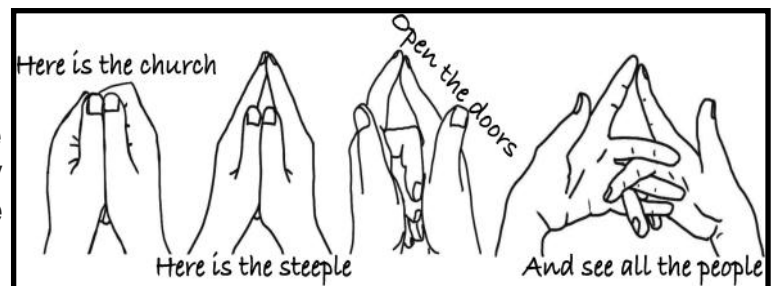


A PASTOR'S PONDERING

*"Here is the church, here is the steeple,
Open the doors, and see all the people!"*



Did you ever say that nursery rhyme growing up? Did you teach it to younger ones? While it is a short and fun way to describe the church, the theology of this nursery rhyme is not ideal. It teaches that the church is a building that has people in it, but really the church is the people.



Throughout the New Testament, visions of the church, or the Greek word, *koinonia*, are expressions of community. Gathering to help each other out, sharing their belongings, enjoying each other's company, praying and worshipping together, these are all expressions of community/*koinonia*/church.

Late in April, I had the privilege of attending the final theatrical performance for one of MagPres' high school students at the request of that student's parent. The parent asked that we attend the final show because something special was planned. The parent handed out stuffed animals and on the final curtain call, asked that we throw the stuffed animals onto the stage as a sign of support for the student (this practice was carried over from figure skating, when a high school senior skates their final routine, family and friends throw stuffed animals onto the rink; and this senior has seen and participated in that practice). When the senior took their bow at the end of the play, seemingly 30 or more people threw stuffed animals onto the stage and the high school senior was surprised and moved by this act.

Upon reflection, I prefer this image of community/*koinonia*/church more than the nursery rhyme because it is theologically accurate. Every Sunday, at the conclusion of worship, appears the following words: "BE THE CHURCH" This imperative can be accomplished anywhere and does not require a building. I hope you will take seriously the weekly imperative to "BE THE CHURCH".

Your community/*koinonia*/church participating pastor,
Paul

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

~ April 2026 ~

By Melanie Nelson - Clerk of Session



Recent approvals from your Session include:

- † **Inter-generational VBS to take place at Magnolia in July**
- † **Rich Dickenson as a Middle School Sunday School teacher**
- † **Allocation of \$250 out of the Great Commission Funds-International Mission Fund for Heifer International.**
- † **To follow up on suggestion made to establish a scholarship fund for graduating high school seniors. It was referred to the Endowment Committee to establish criteria and application process.**
- † **Teen Challenge Sunday (which took place on April 12)**
- † **Extending ASL interpreter through May 31, 2026.**



MAGNOLIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

"Enough"

General Fund
03/31/26

	Mar	Ytd
Balance		
2026 Income	\$ 36,097	\$ 124,761
2026 Expense	\$ 32,343	\$ 85,687
Surplus/(deficit) *	\$ 3,754	\$ 39,074

* A surplus in simple terms means we realized more income than we had in expense. A deficit would indicate we spent more money than we recognized as income.

Upon review of the March operating results it has been determined that there are no significant variations from what was expected.

Jeff Ludwig
Treasurer - Magpres



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

UPDATES TO THE CHURCHWIDE SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Did you know the Special Offerings have changed for 2026? By action of the 226th General Assembly (2024), Presbyterians are now invited to participate in three Special Offerings instead of four: *One Great Hour of Sharing, World Communion Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering.*



One Great
Hour of Sharing



World Communion
Offering



Christmas Joy
Offering

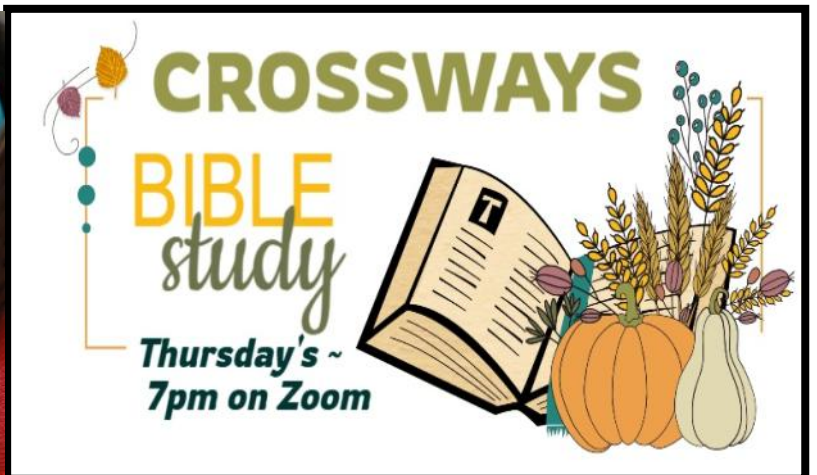
The great news?

All of the causes supported by the former Special Offerings menu continue to be supported, with a few new additions.

- ✦ *One Great Hour of Sharing — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change and immigration, migration and refugees.*
- ✦ *World Communion Offering — racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.*
- ✦ *Christmas Joy Offering — children at risk, youth and young adults, leadership development for people of color, Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, and servants of the church in need (through the Board of Pensions).*

To learn more about the 2026 changes, visit our website.

<https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/special-offerings-changes-2026>



Deacons Desk



Submitted by Kris Shea

Dedicated

Like shepherds, tend the flock of God among you. Watch over it. Don't shepherd because you must, but do it voluntarily for God. Don't shepherd greedily, but do it eagerly ~ 1 Peter 5:2 CEB

Encouraging

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up ~ Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

Anointed

God establishes believers in Christ, anoints them, seals them as His own, and places the Spirit in their hearts as a guarantee of future promises ~2 Cor 1:21-22 CEB

Compassionate

It is those who serve his disciples when they are hungry, thirsty, estranged, naked, sick or imprisoned that will be saved in the Matthew judgement ~ 25:44

Overseer

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood ~ Acts 20-28 ESV

Notable in character

In the same way, servants in the church should be dignified, not two-faced, heavy drinkers, or greedy for money. They should hold on to the faith that has been revealed with a clear conscience. They should also be tested and then serve if they are without fault. In the same way, women who are servants in the church should be dignified and not gossip. They should be sober and faithful in everything they do. ~ 1 Timothy 3:8-11 CEB

Servants

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slaves or free ~ Ephesians 6:7-8 NIV

DELL MAJOCCHI GREAT COMMISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

At the March Session meeting Session took a vote to donate to the Heifer International project. By doing so in March there was an anonymous donor partnering with Heifer that would multiply our donation x 9. Session voted to donate \$250 and it turned into a total donation of \$2,500. This is faithful stewardship, (at work), using resources responsibly and effectively to honor God, serve others and advance his kingdom.



We were able to choose with the donation three full shares of dream baskets for three families. A dream basket includes:

- ⇒ *1 Cow – Providing a sustainable source of milk, fertilizer, and income.*
- ⇒ *1 Sheep – Primarily providing warm clothing for families but also milk if necessary.*
- ⇒ *1 Goat – Goats can contribute milk, cheese, and butter for nourishment. On smaller farms goats are key to family survival.*
- ⇒ *1 starter flock of chicks (10-50) – Chicks primarily used for eggs for self and as income by selling in market.*
- ⇒ *3 rabbits – Due to rapid multiplication rabbits provide a sustainable source of protein and income. Rabbits also produce a high-quality manure to improve their garden soil.*

Another benefit of donating to Heifer international program is that it is the gift that keeps on giving. Recipient families help to sustain the program by donating the first birth of their animals to another family in need.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Ludwig – Member of Endowment Team

A colorful poster for Vacation Bible School (VBS). It features a sun in the top left, a green mountain range in the background, and a tree on the right. The text reads: "Save the Date VBS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 13-16 MONDAY-THURSDAY OPEN TO KIDS, TEENS, AND ADULTS MAGNOLIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 7200 MAGNOLIA AVE RIVERSIDE, CA 92504".

Save the Date
VBS
VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 13-16
MONDAY-THURSDAY
OPEN TO KIDS, TEENS, AND ADULTS
MAGNOLIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
7200 MAGNOLIA AVE
RIVERSIDE, CA 92504

SAVE THE DATE for SUMMER CAMP!!!

BIG BEAR LAKE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

*SUN. JUNE 28th - SAT. JULY 4th, 2026

High School & 4th-6th Grade

*SUN. JULY 5th - SAT. JULY 11th, 2026

High School & 6th-8th Grade

Biblical teaching and solo spiritual exploration,

Creative Games, arts and crafts, and activities,

Group discussions and authentic worship,

Lifelong friendships, unforgettable memories, and a week of fun!

For more detail visit:

<https://www.bigbearlakechristianconferencecenter.com/our-program>

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.



MAY MEMORY VERSE : Matthew 16:18

*I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock.
The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it.*

SHORTENED PASSAGE:

I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock.



MAGPRES YOUTH MINI-GOLF & ESCAPE ROOM OUTING APRIL 2026



MAGPRES 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>

YOUTH MAY CALENDAR

May 3 - Mtg 11:30am - John 20:19-21

May 10 - Mother's Day - No Mtg.

May 17 - Young People Sunday

May 24 - Church Picnic

May 31 - Top Golf Outing

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.

...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
Worship Service 10am Sun.
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
Minister of Music

Cynthia Wright
Pianist/Accompanist

Allison Robinson
Nursery Attendant

Michelle Knopf
CE Leader

Jaeson Robinson
Youth Leader

Robbie Yates,
Audio-Video Tech



MAY 24th - CHURCH PICNIC

JUNE 21st - PROGRESSIVE DINNER

**JULY 13th-16th -
INTERGENERATIONAL VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL**

SUNDAY ~ MAY 10th

Every 2nd Sunday of the month MagPres collects non-perishable food donations for Lutheran Social Services local food distribution.

*We donated **91** items in April!
Thank you all for your generosity!*

Donations may be dropped off during Sunday Service or during the church office hours Mon-Thur.



MAGPRES MAY 2026 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11:30am - Youth Mini-Golf/Escape	6:45pm - Scouts - Troop 16	7pm - Session Meeting	7pm - Choir Rehearsal	7pm - Crossways Bible Study	Office Closed YoungLife Golf Outing 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10am - Deacon Offering 10am - Worship / Communion 10:15am - Sunday School 11:30am - Youth-John 20:10-31 2:30pm - "Into Breeches" Riv. Players Theatre	6:45pm - Scouts - Troop 16	6pm - CE Cmte. 6:30pm - FOM Cmte. 7pm - BaG Cmte. 7pm - Mission Cmte.	7pm - Choir Rehearsal	7pm - Crossways Bible Study	Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC 4pm - Path of Life Meal
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day 10am - TWO-CAN Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11:30am - No Youth Grp	6:45pm - Scouts - Troop 16	4pm - Worship Cmte 7pm - Stew_Fin Cmte	7pm - Choir Rehearsal	7pm - Crossways Bible Study	Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10am - Children & Youth Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School	9am UpLook Mat'ls Due 6:45pm - Scouts - Troop 16	7pm - Deacon Meeting	Session Mat'ls Due 9am 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	7pm - Crossways Bible Study	Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC 6pm - FP Volunteer Event	9:30am - EEEAC
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11:30am - Church Picnic 11:30am - No Youth Grp	Memorial Day-Office Closed 6:45pm - Scouts - Troop 16	7pm - Session Meeting	7pm - Choir Rehearsal	7pm - Crossways Bible Study	Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11:30am - Youth-Top Golf Outing	Pastor Paul vacation					
	6:45pm - Scouts - Troop 16	6pm - CE Cmte. 6:30pm - FOM Cmte. 7pm - BaG Cmte. 7pm - Mission Cmte.	7pm - Choir Rehearsal	7pm - Crossways Bible Study	Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC

MAY 2026 PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Lance & JoAnn Alford	2 Ken Anderson
3 Riverside Public Utilities	4 Wayne & Kristina Andrew	5 Ruth Bender	6 Bret & Debbie Benninger	7 Bill & Linda Bingham	8 The Bowman Family	9 Ann Brady
10 Nominating Committee	11 Eric & Anna Brandenberger	12 Dan & Karrie Brooks	13 Ralph Burnett	14 Martina Catton	15 The Cohen Family	16 Neil & Kathy Cohen
17 Bethany Presbyterian Church	18 The Rev. Brad & Lori Copeland	19 Donna Crossen	20 Kayla Crossen	21 Sharon DeLeal	22 Hannah Dickenson	23 Richard & Heather Dickenson
24 YoungLife	25 Becky Doshier	26 Mike & Janet Doshier	27 The Duncan Family	28 Alice Ehlers	29 Joyce Ehlers	30 Carol Farmer
31 Johnson Orthopedic						



BIRTHDAYS

1 David King
 1 Marge Ludwig
 2 JoAnn Alford
 2 Melissa Holden
 10 Dorothy McLaughlin/Sachs
 11 Tessa Islas-Paredes

13 Janet Field
 14 Cole Gettis
 17 Caitlin Keovilay
 17 Krista Zwart
 19 Donna Crossen
 21 Judy O'Bier

22 Sharon Reinhardt
 25 Anderson Duncan
 29 Marshall Lee
 30 Brenda Wynsma
 31 Neil Cohen

ANNIVERSARIES

5 David & Claudia King

25 Dave & Sandy Richards