



Magnolia Presbyterian Church

The UpLook

FEBRUARY 2025

WORSHIP SERVICE - Sundays @ 10:00am ~ In person and online

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Following Worship SUN. Feb 2nd

DEACON OFFERING - First Sunday of the month ~ SUN. Feb. 2nd

SCOUTS PANCAKE BREAKFAST - Following Worship/Cong. Meeting ~ SUN. Feb. 2nd

YOUTH GROUP - Meets Sundays After Church

PASTOR PONDERING

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I tell you?” ~Luke 6:46

For the first two months of this year, we have been exploring Jesus’ Sermon on the Plain as recorded in Luke. When compared to Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, there seem to be similarities and differences between the two.

The context seems to be different: Matthew says “he went up the mountain” (5:1) while Luke says “he came down and stood on a level place” (6:17). The content seems to be different: the Sermon on the Mount has 111 verses while the Sermon on the Plain has 33 verses. In addition, the Sermon on the Mount has a spiritual emphasis (“blessed are the poor in spirit” 5:3) while the Sermon on the Plain has a more temporal tone (“blessed are you who are poor” 6:20).

But there is much that is similar: begins with beatitudes, imperative to love one’s enemies, turn the other cheek, golden rule, don’t judge, speck/log, call Jesus Lord but don’t do what he says, and two houses on two foundations.

These similarities and differences have created no consensus amongst scholars about whether Matthew and Luke recorded the same sermon or if they recorded two completely different sermons. Do you think they are the same sermon or different?

No matter where you land on whether these were the same or different, what this sermon or these sermons teach are immensely important for us. Regardless of what you conclude, are you choosing to live what they teach? While it is fun to get into the nitty gritty of a text, if we don’t end up doing what it says, what good is it to study it?

As we continue to study the Sermon on the Plain this month, may it help us become more fully formed followers of Jesus Christ.

Your following Jesus Pastor,

But God demonstrates
his own love
for us in this:
While we were still sinners,
Christ died FOR US.
Romans 5:8, NIV



OFFICE CLOSED February 17th

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm
Closed Lunch 12pm-1pm
Closed Fridays

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The January Session meeting is always a “busi-ness” one as there are many Presbytery-required responsibilities to be approved.

Most of these are done in one fell swoop (vote) on the Consent Agenda. They include:

- ~~ Elections of the Clerk of Session; Church Treasurer; Financial Secretaries and alternates; Corporate Officers; and Commissioners to Presbytery.
- ~~ Acceptance of the 2024 Magnolia Presbyterian Church Annual Report *
- ~~ Approval of the GA Statistical Report *
- ~~ Authorizing dates of the Lord’s Supper
- ~~ Acknowledgement of having property and liability insurance
- ~~ Approval of members of Session committees

*Also in January, your Clerk of Session gathers the necessary information and statistics, and finalizes several Annual Report submissions: 2025 Presbytery Annual Report; 2024 Magnolia’s

Annual Report; 2024 General Assembly Statistical Report

“...From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” Luke 12:48

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session

MISSION COMMITTEE

Providing dinner on the second Saturday of every month for the residents at the Hulen Place homeless shelter has been a local mission project of Mag Pres for many years. Path of Life Ministries operates the shelter at 2880 Hulen Place Riverside. Pastor Paul often uses this ministry as an example of how members can get involved serving in the community. We have four members that three months out of the year are willing to plan the menu, shop, cook, and see that the food is delivered to Hulen Place. During Covid we only dropped off food and didn't go in the shelter to serve it. Now the Mission Committee would like to recruit 4-5 volunteers for each month so once again we're able to go in to serve. It's an important part of the ministry to make a personal connection with the residents showing them our care and support.

We need your help to do this and are going to be asking for sign-ups in the near future. Sign Up Genius is going to be available for you to sign up for specific evenings. In addition, team leaders will have a list of people that can be called on for help. Serving dinner only takes from about 5:30 to 7:30. Any questions, please see Barbara Johnson. We look forward to your participation!

The Mission Committee also extends a big thank you to everyone that participated in putting together a "Blessing Bag" after Worship on January 26th. This small act of service to our neighbors in need especially at this time of year will make a difference in the daily life of someone in need.



Our church has been generously blessed during this year's Stewardship Drive. We are grateful for the commitments from our members and friends that will uphold this congregation to do great things in the name of Jesus in the coming year.

2025 PLEDGE ENVELOPES will be available in the Narthex . Please take a box as a reminder of your giving for 2025 and note the box you took on the sign out sheet. You can also pick them up in the church office.

2025 Per Capita Apportionment and Initial Offering Envelopes

The **Per Capita for 2025 is \$44.00** per each member on our rolls. If each member is able to pay their Per Capita, it relieves our budget from that added expense. Per Capita is a method of funding some of the essential functions of the Church (PCUSA), both on a local and national level. It is helpful if you will note in the memo of your check that it is for Per Capita giving.

The first envelope in the box is labeled "Initial Offering" a \$10.00 donation will help defray the cost of the 2025 envelopes.

Thank you for your continuing support of our church and for your giving hearts

- Stewardship and Finance Committee-



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



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

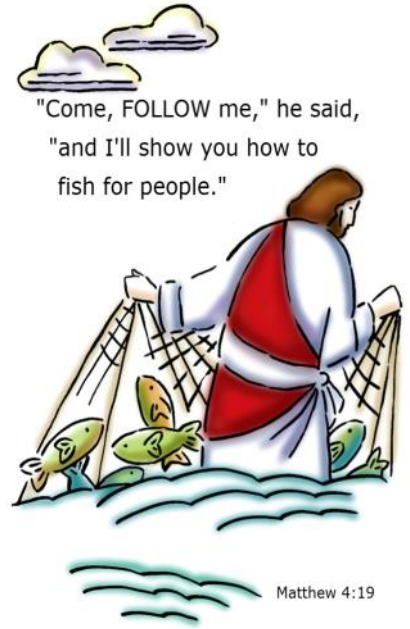
Sunday School includes: Bible lessons, Songs, crafts, and play time.

FEBRUARY memory verse: Matthew 4:19

“Come, follow me,” he said.

Full Passage:

“Come, follow me,” he said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people.”



Students who learn memory verses will earn ‘treasure chest stickers’ in addition to ‘attendance stickers’



REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

God is
LOVE.

1 JOHN 4:16



CHILDREN/YOUTH PERMISSION FORMS

Do you have a child/youth? We are accepting updated Student Permission forms for the 21024-2025 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.





Deacons Desk

We as the people of God, according to the Old Testament account found in Micah 6:8, are to “act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with your God.” The Deacons of Magnolia Presbyterian Church work to live out this call as we serve the congregation by actively caring for their needs through acts of service, including welcoming new members, visiting the sick, providing practical assistance to those in need, and generally demonstrating Christ's love within the community.

This month we hope you will feel the love of Christ as we serve one another in acts of mercy. Will you join the deacons and find ways to provide hope during loss and concern; comfort for those in need through “Two-Can Sunday” or assisting Family Promise; and love through a phone call or note to someone who needs encouragement .
Brenda Flowers



Join the Choir...

You'll Be Glad
You Did!

Come join the Choir! We meet
Wednesday Nights at 7:00
In the Choir room located in the
Church Office.

SPECIAL DAYS IN FEBRUARY

Ground Hog Day-February 2nd

Valentine's Day - February 14th

**Presidents Day - Feb. 17th
(office closed)**



...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



Two-Can Sunday!

FEBRUARY 9th

Every 2nd Sunday of the month MagPres collects non-perishable food donations for Lutheran Social Services local food distribution. Last month we collected over **213** items! Thank you all for your generosity!

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



Rising from the Ashes
January Fundraiser at Cal Fish Grill
raised approximately \$330 !!!
Thank you for your participation!



FEBRUARY 2025 Prayer Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Lowell and Dee Lacy
2 FOM Committee	3 James & Ann Laudermilk	4 Michelle Laudermilk	5 Ryan Laudermilk	6 Ben Lee	7 Marshall & Mary Lee	8 Sam Lee
9 Mission Committee	10 Bob & Lee Lewis	11 Tim & Diana Lewis	12 Flora Livingstone	13 Adrien Lowery	14 Ann Lowry	15 Jeff & Laurie Ludwig
16 Stewardship & Finance Committee	17 Marge Ludwig	18 The Mabena Family	19 Jody Macdonald	20 Craig & Lisa Macdougall	21 The Manley Family	22 Adam Martinez
23 Worship Committee	24 Steve & Jan Mckee	25 The Mclaughlin/Sachs Family	26 Laura Medrano	27 Bobby & Kriss Menosky	28 Lance & Laurie Mordue	



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



February Birthdays

Sharon DeLeal	1st	John Wright	8th	Tom Hutchinson	23rd
Jan McKee	5th	Cannon Sindaha	10th	Claudia King	25th
Aaron Gettis	6th	Ann Laudermilk	15th	Anna Brandenberger	26th
Julie Hutchinson	7th	Abby Sindaha	18th	Catelyn Garcia	26th
Paul (III) Knopf	7th	Karrie Brooks	21st	Sonia Campos	28th
Christian Garcia	8th	Patty Hernandez	21st	Alyssa Timoschuk	29th
		Anne Denham	23rd		

February Anniversaries

Chuck & Deloris Tobin 7th

Richard and Jeanne Hood 14th

MAGPRES FEBRUARY 2025 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday	7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	7pm - Session Meeting	7pm - Choir Practice		Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10am - Communion Sunday 10am - Deacon Offering 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 11am - Congregational 11:30am - Scouts Pancake	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
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10am - TWO-CAN Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday	12pm - Eileen Miller Balough 7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	6pm - Worship Cmte 7pm - Stew_Fin Cmte	8am - Fireside-Kayla Event 7pm - Choir Practice		Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday	9am UpLook Mat'ls Due 7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	7pm - Deacon Meeting	Session Mat'ls Due 9am 7pm - Choir Practice		Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday	7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	7pm - Session Meeting	7pm - Choir Practice		Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	9:30am - EEEAC