



Magnolia Presbyterian Church

The UpLook

MARCH 2025

WORSHIP SERVICE - Sundays @ 10:00am ~ In person and online
DEACON OFFERING - First Sunday of the month ~ SUN. March 2nd
YOUTH GROUP - Meets Sundays After Church
TWO-CAN SUNDAY - Non-perishable food collection for LSS ~ SUN. March 9th
BUILDING FUNDRAISER - El Torito 4-8pm ~ THUR. March 20th
CROP WALK - 1:30pm ~ SUN. March 23rd

PASTOR PONDERING

“The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is celebrated this year on March 5th (we’ll have a simple supper at 6pm followed by a worship service at 7pm). Lent is often signified by fasting: some give up chocolate, others give up television, I give up football. Because our siblings who identify as Roman Catholic give up meat on Fridays during lent, you usually can get a good deal on fish sandwiches at fast food chains.

While Lent is known for giving something up, some Christian faith traditions choose to take something on. For example instead of avoiding something for the 40 days of Lent, they will instead volunteer at a shelter or a feeding program. One year, I participated in the SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge, which invited people to only eat what a person on food stamps could afford (for more information, visit: <https://www.moneycrashers.com/snap-food-stamp-challenge/>). This meant I could only spend \$5 a day, or \$30 a week, on food. This allowed me to better understand the struggles one faces when your primary source of food is food stamps.

This year for Lent, we are doing a sermon series entitled: Everything in Between, which focuses on Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem. By exploring familiar stories in the Gospel of Luke (the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the Fruitless Fig Tree, the Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus, and more), we’ll be invited to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. In addition to this sermon series, we have two types of devotionals for you to consider: 1) a traditional devotional with readings that invite you to thin, reflect, and act; and 2) devotional cards that offer a centering practice (like listening to music or sitting in silence for a few minutes) followed by 1 question to ponder. These are great for individual study and will help you to focus on your faith during lent.

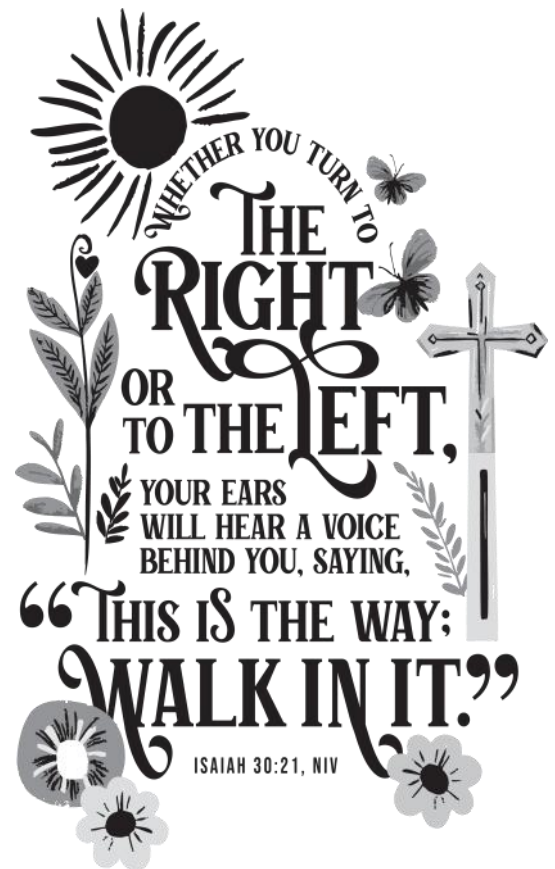
In addition, our small groups are returning this lent, as we explore Adam Hamilton’s book “Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws.” Groups are offered on Sunday after worship, Monday evening, Wednesday evening, and Thursday evening.

John Zarecki is also offering again the bible study on the Sermon on the Mount, utilizing his son’s book, “Amazed at his Teaching” on Thursdays from Noon-1:30pm

I hope you will take on one or all three of these opportunities to focus during lent and experience a blessed Lenten season.

Your “taking something on this lent”,

Pastor Paul



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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Special Meeting

Along with the 11 Stated Session meetings required each year, there is the chance that Session may “call” Special Meetings to conduct a specific piece of business. In the past, these have included:

- ~~ Receiving new members and children for baptism
- ~~ Examining officers prior to Ordination
- ~~ Approving final budgets
- ~~ Personnel decisions
- ~~ Decisions needing to be made from the fire of 2018
- ~~ Responses to the COVID pandemic

AND, there can also be retreats, or workshops conducted by Session, also for a specific purpose. On February 10, Session held one of these workshops to hear a presentation by Francis Lin, Presbytery Leader, entitled “Discovering God’s Vision for a Transformative Community.” It is a partnering program between churches in our Presbytery. It is also in the early stages of development and Session will learn more in the coming months. Stay tuned....

“...Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.’”

Mark 3:34-35

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session

MISSION COMMITTEE

**The MagPres Mission Committee would like to
invite you to attend the annual**

RIVERSIDE CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, March 23th 1:30pm



- † *Meet at First United Methodist Church at 4845 Brockton Avenue.*
- † *We walk one mile along Brockton Avenue to Trinity Lutheran Church and then return to the start.*
- † *Bring water/hat/sunscreen.*

**~ Join Magnolia Presbyterian Church ~
Walk and Donate!**

Sign-Up: Crop Walk link [here](#)

[https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/
team/magnolia-presbyterian-church-2](https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/magnolia-presbyterian-church-2)



*Donate online or by check to CWS/Crop
Questions? See Kris Shea or call/text Mary Lee at 951-285-3450*



Well Site Update ~ March 2025

Construction for the Well Site is nearing completion. Previously the well was dug with adequate quantity and quality of water found. Now the construction of the pump and other equipment, and the wall around it (similar to the Cell Site Building) will start sometime in March. Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) and their well site construction crew will occupy about the same amount of parking lot space as before, but not the newly landscaped area. There will be a fenced in area in the back corner of the parking lot for use of the pipeline contractor for staging. Please park on the church side of the parking lot. There will be plenty of room for all. This water is intended for agricultural use, freeing WMWD up from purchasing more expensive domestic water from the much larger Metropolitan Water District.

Tim Lewis - BAG Committee

SAVE THE DATE !!!

New Building Fundraiser
Thursday ~ March 20th ~ 4-8pm
El Torito ~ 3639 Riverside Plaza Dr. Riverside, CA 92506



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



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.

MARCH memory verse: **John 20:18**

“I’ve seen the Lord”

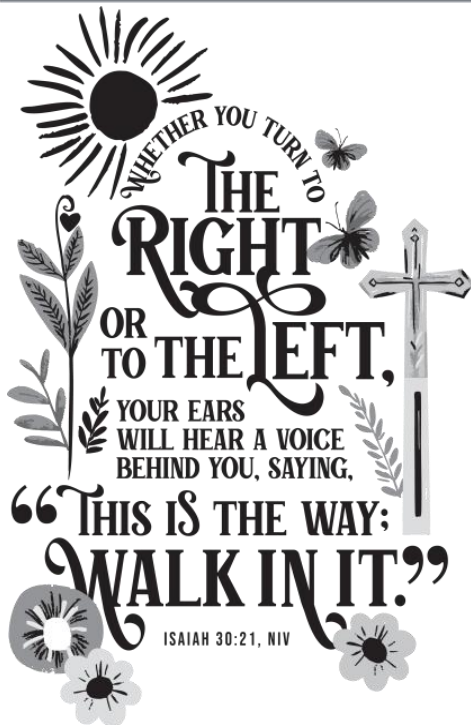
Full Passage:

*Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, “I’ve seen the Lord.”
Then she told them what he said to her.*

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



REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH



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 are nearing the period of Lent and the prelude to Easter. Ash Wednesday is observed as a day of reflection and repentance at the beginning of Lent. Lent represents the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert and His temptations by the devil. I cannot imagine anyone today could resist the urge to surrender and quit. We face temptations all around us every day. Generally, we look to fasting for Lent as giving up something we do normally. We select what is maybe easiest such as sweets, red meat, snacks, or certain beverages. Even this may not last. We are not challenged like Jesus but the devil still preys on our weaknesses. Following the path Jesus set out for us is not easy. Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect, pray, and repent. It is a time for spiritual fasting to renew our faith and prepare for the resurrection of Jesus on Easter.

By Lance Mordue - Deacon



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

SPECIAL DAYS IN MARCH

Transfiguration Sunday - March 2nd

Ash Wednesday - March 5th

Daylight Savings Day - March 9th

Saint Patrick's Day - March 17th

First Day of Spring - March 20th

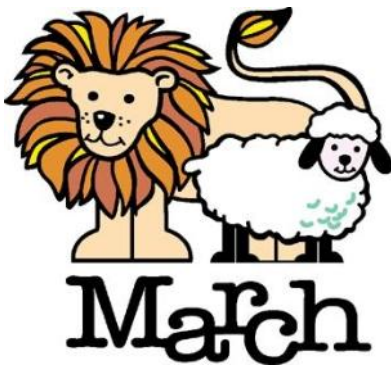
Building Fundraiser - March 20th



...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

MARCH 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 **71** items! Thank you all for your generosity!

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



MAGPRES MARCH 2025 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's	24 7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	25 7pm - Session Meeting	26 7pm - Choir Practice	27	28 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	1 9:30am - EEEAC
2 10am - Communion 10am - Deacon Offering 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's	3 7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	4 6pm - CE Cmte. 6:30pm - FOM Cmte. 7pm - BaG Cmte. 7pm - Mission Cmte.	5 6pm - Soup Supper 7pm - Ash Wed Service 7pm - Choir Practice	6 12pm - Thursday Middy	7 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	8 9:30am - EEEAC 4pm - Path of Life Meal
9 10am - TWO-CAN Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's	10 7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	11 6pm - Worship Cmte 7pm - Stew_Fin Cmte	12 7pm - Choir Practice	13 12pm - Thursday Middy	14 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	15 9:30am - EEEAC
16 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's	17 9am UpLook Mat'ls Due 7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	18 7pm - Deacon Meeting	19 Session Mat'ls Due 9am 7pm - Choir Practice	20 El Torrito Bldg Fundraiser 12pm - Thursday Middy	21 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	22 Family Promise Karaoke 9:30am - EEEAC
23 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's 1:30pm - Crop Walk	24 7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	25 7pm - Session Meeting	26 7pm - Choir Practice	27 12pm - Thursday Middy	28 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	29 9:30am - EEEAC
30 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's	31 7pm - Scouts - Troop 16	1 6pm - CE Cmte. 6:30pm - FOM Cmte. 7pm - BaG Cmte. 7pm - Mission Cmte.	2 7pm - Choir Practice	3 12pm - Thursday Middy	4 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	5 9:30am - EEEAC

MARCH 2025 PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Monique Mowry
2 Riverside Police	3 The NA Family	4 Brian & Melanie Nelson	5 Chris & Sasha Nelson	6 Donna Nelson	7 Makenzie Nelson	8 Chris & Sherry Nettles
9 Riverside Dental Group	10 Zach Ni	11 The Nicholson Family	12 Judy O'Bier	13 Daniel & Tessa Padres	14 Jane Peden	15 The Perez Family
16 Westoe Realtors	17 Ron & Cornelia Phifer	18 Gary & Pat Platner	19 Clarke & Jeanette Prescott	20 Rosie Quinones	21 Chuck & Carolyn Raughley	22 Mel & Rhonda Rehenke
23 Johnson Orthopedic	24 The Reidman Family	25 John & Sharon Reinhardt	26 Katie Reinhardt	27 Dave & Sandy Richards	28 Jean Riggs	29 The Robinson Family
30 Riverside Neurology	31 Becky & John Robledo					



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	James Goulet-Perez	12th	Kathy Cohen	26th
Jackson Duncan	6th	Janet Doshier	12th	Amanda Schlegel	28th
Allison Manley	7th	Marcus Goulet-Perez	12th	Michelle Manley	29th

March Anniversaries

Rev. Karn Suzanne Griffen	1st	King and Bev (Birchi) Williams	15th	Timothy and Diana Lewis	22nd
Dick and Bonnie Kirby	3rd	Clarke and Jeanette Prescott	17th	Bob and Lee Lewis	28th