

Magnolia Presbyterian Church

The Uplook

September 2021

Inside this issue

- Pastors Message 1
- Deacons Corner 2
- Session Highlights 3
- Stewardship 4
- Choir Message 5
- Recipe's, Trivia 6
- Birthdays & Anniversaries 7
- Ending Credits 8



Minister's Moment

How long will you forget me, Lord? Forever?...Look at me! answer me, Lord my God!...But I have trusted in your faithful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. Psalm 13:1,3,5

Why do bad things happen to good people?" is probably the number one theological question asked by believers and non-believers alike. In the wisdom literature section of the Old Testament, Job wrestled with this very question. We know from reading the Psalms, that Job was not alone. In the span of 6 verses, David goes from crying out in despair to demanding something of God, to remembering, and finally to praise. Through 42 chapters of the book of Job, Job's vulnerability and authenticity shines through brilliantly in his struggle. How often have we or someone we care about found themselves in a similar state of being? Whether we are focusing on the current madness going on in our world or something happening in our personal lives, past or present, we may find ourselves lamenting, questioning, and doubting. Even if you personally have not wrestled with God, you might know or encounter someone who finds themselves wondering where God is in the midst of their suffering. In exploring Job's questions in conversation with God and others, we may discover some answers to these age-old wonderings. During the month of September, Pastor Paul and I will be doing a brief survey of the book of Job through a Sermon series entitled, "When Things Fall Apart". We invite you to come along and invite others on this journey of discovery; discovery that will lead to a better understanding of ourselves, others, and most importantly, the God we serve.

In Christ,
Pastor Claire



DEACON'S CORNER

The fall season will soon be approaching, as I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:1 to everything there is a season and time for every purpose under heaven.

We have limited time here on earth and are encouraged to use this time for the good, and sharing of the news of Jesus. God gives us the energy and knowledge to do everything he asks of us. The Lord is in control of all things including the seasons, Christian leadership, wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Especially now in this season of fear from COVID-19 and what the future holds, we often find us asking where is God? With this I am reminded of the song "Way Maker". Even when we can't see him working, even when we can't feel him working he never stops; Jesus never stops working". So, we must keep worshipping out God and let our Faith be bigger than our fear. The Deacons here at MagPres are always here to share in your seasons, the hard ones and the ones that bring joy.

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go".

Linda Welman
Deacon

SCOUTS CORNER

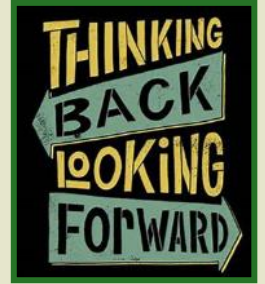
The Scouts recently returned from their long yearned for summer camp near Lake Arrowhead. They found out that if you ignore the rules and keep snacks in your tent you get ants & mice visitors. The passing rattlesnake was just nature saying "hi." The shooting range was popular with Patrick obtaining the coveted "dime" award for 3 shots hitting within a dime size space on the target. Terry hit 22 of 25 & qualified for the Shooting Merit Badge. The Scouts each earned 3-4 merit badges for their efforts over the week. For some this was their 1st summer camp and a great mountain top experience. Many thanks for the 3 adult leaders (Allison, Danny, Alicia) providing daily guidance and individualized leadership. Next up is the Annual Planning Mtg. for scheduling monthly outings/ activities and topics for each month's troop meetings for the up coming year. Be Prepared!

Tim Lewis,
Charter Organization Representative

ACCESS WORSHIP ONLINE

You can participate in worship by going to magpres.com/watch or by visiting our Facebook page (facebook.com/magpres). Services are archived for you to watch later (or again!)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Session met twice for Called Meetings at the end of July and beginning of August. In July, it was necessary to make two decisions relating to COVID-19. First, was to reinstate the Re-Opening Team and re-establish the mask mandate for in-person worship services, following all CDC and California Department of Public Health guidelines. And second, due to a positive COVID test from a congregant at the August 1, 2021 service, the service of August 8th was moved to on-line only. With no further positive tests, Session voted to go back to in-person worship starting August 15, 2021, with all previous protocols in place and with the caveat that should more congregants test positive for COVID, they will vote to go back to on-line only.

At the August meeting, approval was given to move forward in leasing a 20'X40' piece of land to Western Municipal Water District for the purpose of digging a well. Should the well produce the desired water amounts, WMWD would like to purchase the same piece of land, pending Congregational and Presbytery approval for the sale. If you were at the Congregational Meeting of August 29, 2021, the decision to approve or not approve the sale was made...

"A Rich Tradition... A Bright Future"

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session

YOUTH GROUP

Welcome back Youth Group!

NEXT MEETING: September 12, 2021- on Zoom community group link

Please keep our leaders and youth in your prayers until we resume.

Contact: Eric Brandenberger at epsouthernca@gmail.com for more info.

**exceptions for holidays and other events **

CROSSWAYS BIBLE STUDY

When: Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Time: 3:00 pm - 4:45 pm and 7:00 pm - 8:45 pm.

Crossways is a 2 year long, intense and in-depth bible study. Year 2 begins on September 15, 2021.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Memorial Service for Rev. Diana Wright

Saturday, October 9th at

Foothills United Methodist

4031 Avocado Blvd. La Mesa CA.

(Time TBD.)

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

What does the Lord require of (you) and I? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. The image of walking humbly with God is a beautiful image and life goal.

For the community we call MagPres, we ask a similar question: What do we expect of each other?

We expect each one to be in worship, to serve on a committee, or in some ministry to give one's time, talent & treasure both within our community and outside where we live.

There is a video on YouTube that I wish we could all view together today. It can be found searching this title: "**2 mins Short Gratitude Story for Kids**". The picture on the video is of a hunched woman with a big smile. As the video begins a title appears, The Transformation of Billy. We see Billy as a thin man standing in an elevator and a woman hurrying to get inside. Billy doesn't notice nor does he hold the door for her. Thus begins the story of Billy who seems to be unaware of anything except himself. Shortly after exiting the elevator, unusual occurrences start happening in front of Billy as he is walking on his path home. Unaware of his surroundings, Billy stops and is waiting at an intersection to cross the street. While Billy is waiting an older woman reaches out and grabs his arm for help crossing the street, as Billy and the older woman are crossing very slowly a speeding car comes out of nowhere and aims directly at them. Shocked and scared all Billy could do is extend his arm out, close his eyes, and hope for the best. Something happens to Billy after this incident that changed his life. Billy transforms into a caring person in a wider community of life. We are blessed to have many who continue to care for one another by calling, writing notes/sending cards, praying for specific needs and one another. We also have several examples of our community who are volunteers in the community. They are members of service groups, they feed the hungry, tutor, deliver Meals on Wheels, help with scouts and brownies, volunteer in nonprofits, city commissions, and they sew for nursing homes and hospitals. Our transformation is never complete, nor should it be. Our walk with God is step by step and for that we are grateful. If you would be willing to share what you are doing in the community, please write a first-person account (200 words) or let us tell your story in an interview, and we will share it in the Uplook.

The Session has directed Stewardship to stop depositing checks made payable to Family Promise. We encourage you to support Family Promise directly. If you will be giving to Family Promise, please make all checks payable to Family Promise. Thank you!

Serving Christ Together,
Chris C. Nettles, Stewardship chair

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 1-July 31st

Income:	\$259,519.16
Expenses:	\$253,323.11
Positive : Difference	\$ 6,196.05

HOW TO GIVE

Please take advantage of these Giving Opportunities

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

◇**MOBILE** via text Text "magpres" to 77977

◇**MOBILE** via app -- Download our church app through the Apple App Store or Google Play. Search for "Magnolia Presbyterian Church"

◇**U.S. MAIL**

Send a check via US Mail to our mailing address:

7200 Magnolia Avenue | Riverside CA 92504

Questions? Email stewardship@magpres.com



A World Without Music!

Can you imagine a world without music? Can you imagine worship without music? I can't imagine either one of those scenarios. Now, let me ask; are you looking for a place to plug-in at church? Church choir is a great place to get involved, and to get to know better the people you see in front of you every Sunday (nearly every Sunday.)

At choir we sing together, pray together, share with one another, and have fun. It is a great place to share in a non-threatening environment, and to share the talents that God has given you. Don't tell me you don't have talent. God sees you singing in your car, at home or wherever. So why not sing for Him? It is very rewarding and you get to hang out with me! That's like a win win. (I usually say win win for everybody, but Cynthia corrects me every time.) Which of course is why I do it.

We will begin choir on Thursday September 16, at 7 PM. Usually it runs about an hour, sometimes a little more. Once we share and pray, we are generally out by 8:30 at the latest. James, Cynthia and I look forward to singing with you and leading worship together. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions. I would love to discuss this with you. You can reach me at music@magpres.com

John Wright
Choir Director

Faithful Love

A farmer had some puppies he needed to sell. He painted a sign advertising the 4 pups and set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard. As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eyes of a little boy. "Mister," he said, "I want to buy one of your puppies." "Well," said the farmer, as he rubbed the sweat off the back of his neck, "These puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money."

The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer.

"I've got thirty-nine cents. Is that enough to take a look?"

"Sure," said the farmer. And with that he let out a whistle. "Here, Dolly!" he called.

Out from the doghouse and down the ramp ran Dolly followed by four little balls of fur. The little boy pressed his face against the chain link fence. His eyes danced with delight. As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the doghouse.

Slowly another little ball appeared, this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid. Then in a somewhat awkward manner, the little pup began hobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up...

"I want that one," the little boy said, pointing to the runt.

The farmer knelt down at the boy's side and said, "Son, you don't want that puppy. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would."

With that the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down, and began rolling up one leg of his trousers. In doing so he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg attaching itself to a specially made shoe. Looking back up at the farmer, he said, "You see sir, I don't run too well myself, and he will need someone who understands."

With tears in his eyes, the farmer reached down and picked up the little pup. Holding it carefully he handed it to the little boy.

"How much?" asked the little boy.

"No charge," answered the farmer, "There's no charge for love."





Autumn Caramel Apple Cheesecake

- 1 (21 ounce) can apple pie filling
- 1 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crust
- 2 (8 ounce) packages of cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup caramel ice cream topping
- 12 pecan halves
- 2/3 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Reserve 3/4 cup of apple pie filling and set aside. Spoon remaining pie filling into crust. In a large bowl, combine cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Beat until smooth then add eggs and mix well. Pour over apple pie filling in crust. Bake in oven for 35 minutes, or until center is set. Remove from oven and cool to room temperature. Mix reserved apple filling and caramel topping in a small saucepan. Heat for about 1 minute. Arrange apple slices around outside edge of cheesecake. Spread caramel sauce evenly over. Decorate with pecans. Chill until ready to serve.

Bible Trivia



Circle the correct answer. For answers please turn to page 7.

Matthew was a _____?

- A. Tax collector
- B. Journalist
- C. Writer
- D. Mathematician

How many people did Jesus feed with five loaves of bread and two fish?

- A. One thousand
- B. Two thousand
- C. Five thousand
- D. Seven thousand

The first book of the bible is called what?

- A. John
- B. Matthew
- C. Genesis
- D. Revelation

How many books are in the New Testament?

- A. Twelve
- B. Eighteen
- C. Ten
- D. Twenty Seven



Norah Sachs	September 19
Adam Martinez	September 23
Julie King	September 25
Diana Lewis	September 26
Janelle Anderson	September 30
Edith Grant	September 30

Birthdays

Craig MacDougall	September 1
Laura Medrano	September 1
Jay Nicholson	September 1
Ruth Megenney	September 2
Kierstyn Cohen	September 5
Andi Mabena	September 5
Allie Robinson	September 5
James King	September 6
Mel Rehnke	September 6
Peter Manley	September 12
Melanie Nelson	September 12
Janet Nicks	September 12
Alma Vierich	September 13
Dave Richards	September 14
Shawn Smith	September 14
Gary Welman	September 14
Caitlyn Cohen	September 15
Becky Doshier	September 15
Monique Mowry	September 15
Josie Gonzales	September 16
Cherylyn Thornton	September 17
Joey Contreras	September 19



Anniversaries

McKee, Steven & Jan	September 1
Smith, Phil & Sally	September 2
Gettis, Aaron and Erin	September 6
Ludwig, Jeff & Laurie	September 8
Ward, Ray & Loretta	September 9
Mordue, Lance & Laurie	September 11
Bingham, Bill & Linda	September 26
Andrew, Wayne & Kristina	September 29

**Answer key
A, C, C, D**

**You may purchase Stater Bros gift cards.
Monday - Thursday, anytime between 8:30am - 3:00pm.
Buy yours in \$25, \$50, and \$100 cards and the church receives 6%!**



- ⊗ **NEW directories are available in the Worship Center and the church office.**
 - ⊗ **OR - call the office to have one mailed to you.**
 - ⊗ **OR - visit www.magpres.com/people (call the office for the password).**
- Always - if your address, phone, or email changes, notify church@magpres.com**

The first Sunday of every month, we collect the DEACONS DOOR 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.

Our Daily Bread quarterly booklets are available in the Worship Center foyer and in the church office. Pick one up for yourself - and for a friend or stranger. Alternative times will be published later.



A Rich Tradition...A Bright Future

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Magnolia strives to share God's love with all and grow spiritually in relationship with Jesus Christ and each other.

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 8:30 am—3 pm

September 2021



Magnolia Staff

The Rev. Claire Schlegel
Co-Pastor

The Rev. Paul Knopf
Co-Pastor

Lorraine Chapa
Office Manager

James Walters
Music Director/Organist

Saw Shein
Contemporary Music Leader

John Wright, Choral Director

Cynthia Wright, Pianist

Allison Robinson
Nursery Attendant

Jeff Ludwig
Treasurer

[vacant] Youth Leader

SALVATION

*is nearer to
us now than
when we*

**FIRST
BELIEVED.**

ROMANS 13:11, ESV

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